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STATE OF NEW YORK



MICHELLE HINCHEY
Senator, 41ST District

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PREVENTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CANNABIS

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

Returning Amtrak service between Albany and New York City is welcome news, but we are disappointed that this decision came at the expense of expanding Metro-North beyond Poughkeepsie, which has now been put on hold. Extending Metro-North would have created a direct line between upstate communities and major hubs like Grand Central Station and Harlem 125th Street, and provided access to the East Side of Manhattan, something Amtrak service does not do. Metro-North is also the most affordable rail service into and out of New York City, making it easier and more economical for residents and visitors alike. The expansion of the Metro-North train would have opened opportunities for more people to travel to New York City, as well as drive economic opportunity to our upstate communities and small businesses.

In short, the Metro-North expansion would give both more choice and more reliable service while making travel up and down the Hudson River more affordable. Keeping Metro-North expansion on the table must remain a top priority if we're serious about addressing the longstanding inequities in public transit across our region.

We appreciate your [acknowledgment](#) that a future Metro-North expansion could move forward if demand exists, and we note that Metro-North leadership has made clear they are [ready and able to launch service if directed](#). We, the undersigned, can confidently say that demand exists well beyond Poughkeepsie. More public transportation serving and connecting the region is something people have asked for for years. Direct Metro-North service would also create car-free connections between downstate communities and upstate destinations, including access to parks and trails, which we know is a priority of your administration.

Safe, reliable, and affordable public transportation is foundational to economic growth, social inclusion, environmental stewardship, and overall quality of life. Here in New York, we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to chart a more equitable transportation future. We ask you to prioritize this conversation of expanding Metro-North service in a real way and commit to finding a solution that benefits all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michelle Hinchey in black ink.

Senator Michelle Hinchey

Handwritten signature of Senator Jamaal Bailey in black ink.

Senator Jamaal Bailey

Handwritten signature of Senator Erik Bottcher in black ink.

Senator Erik Bottcher

Senator Leroy Comrie

Senator Patricia Fahy

Senator Nathalia Fernandez

Senator Kristen Gonzalez

Senator Andrew Gounardes

Senator Pete Harckham

Senator Brian Kavanagh

Senator John Liu

Senator Shelley Mayer

Senator Zellnor Myrie

Senator Julia Salazar

Senator James Sanders

Senator Luis Sepúlveda

Senator Scarcella-Spanton

Senator Lea Webb

CC: Anthony Coscia, Chair, Amtrak Board of Directors
Justin R. Vonashek, President, MTA Metro-North Railroad
Janno Lieber, MTA Chair and CEO