



April 1, 2022

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We, the undersigned, write to oppose the Executive's proposed public financing for a new Buffalo Bills stadium. This proposal, negotiated in secret and only announced days before the final budget is due, would represent the largest public subsidy to an NFL team in history, reportedly amounting to a total commitment of [over \\$1 billion in public funding](#).

Rather than providing deep economic investment, this proposal is a giveaway to Bills' owner Terry Pegula, an individual who already has \$5.8 billion in net worth. In contrast to the more than \$1 billion demanded of public money, Pegula has reportedly committed only \$350 million to the stadium (and even this has been [questioned by economists](#)). The NFL — an entity that is valued at \$112 billion — is reported to have committed only \$200 million through a loan. Buffalo is in need of significant economic revitalization that cannot be achieved through a billionaire giveaway. Economists [have summarized](#) the consensus view: “Without exception . . . new stadiums provide little or no net economic stimulus to the communities in which they are located.” Additionally, there will be virtually no benefit to the broader public — within the deal, in fact, the Bills would retain all stadium revenues, including parking, concessions and naming rights, as well as television and media rights (generating \$321 million per year, according to [Forbes](#)).

The Executive's proposal is inadequate to the real economic need in Buffalo and across our state. According to the 2021 census, almost thirty percent of Buffalo residents live in poverty — more than double the current nationwide rate. Meanwhile, 92,000 New Yorkers are homeless and our public infrastructure is crumbling. **New Yorkers in and outside of Buffalo need real investments in this year's budget; Terry Pegula does not need support for his ownership of an NFL team.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Brisport'.

State Senator Jabari Brisport

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Zohran Mamdani'.

Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi

Assembly Member Emily Gallagher

State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi

State Senator Julia Salazar

Assembly Member Ron Kim

State Senator James Sanders

Assembly Member Nathalia Fernández

Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson

Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas

Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes

Assembly Member Bobby Carroll

Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou

Assembly Member Manny De Los Santos

Assembly Member Karines Reyes

Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest

Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia