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JUDICIARY

June 5, 2017

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ELAINE PHILLIPS
SENATOR
7TH DISTRICT

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Board Members
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Members:

Long Island Rail Road customers are girding for a challenging and difficult summer commute with the expected refurbishing of Penn Station's infrastructure. As the MTA continues to make preparations for the inevitable disruption and inconvenience, I am encouraged by recent comments from board members and others regarding fare reductions for impacted commuters.

As you may know, I am the prime sponsor of legislation (S.6421) that would allow the LIRR to withhold its payments to Amtrak and compensate commuters for service disruptions related to the Penn Station project. This bill has passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

At a minimum, the MTA's mitigation plan should include fare reductions for commuters who are directly impacted by construction-related service changes, such as those who regularly commute to Penn Station, similar to the reduced fare plan proposed by NJ Transit officials.

But due to the scale of the repair work needed at Penn, the ripple effect of this project will certainly be felt throughout the LIRR system, affecting trains and passengers across the schedule and at stations far from Penn. These passengers deserve to be compensated as well, and I urge the MTA to roll back its most recent, 4 percent fare hike for all monthly LIRR commuters.

We all share an interest in trying to mitigate the frustrating disruptions that are certain to be a part of the daily routine for thousands of Long Island commuters, and LIRR customers shouldn't have to pay more for reduced service. Fare reductions must be a part of the MTA's plan for the Penn Station rebuilding project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Phillips".

Elaine Phillips
State Senator, 7th District