

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 12, 2024

President Donald J. Trump
1100 S Ocean Blvd
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear President Trump,

Congratulations on your historic election victory this past Tuesday. Having been delivered a mandate to do the important work ahead of us on behalf of the American people, we are writing to you today to raise our concerns regarding the reported implementation of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) central business district (CBD) tolling program ("congestion pricing")

As you well know, Mr. President, New York State and its government constantly overreach in every aspect of government, and this is no less true than in the oppressive taxation regime Kathy Hochul has instilled. Congestion pricing, the latest in a long string of tyrannical taxes, has been pressed forward through consistent opposition about the burden on New York families and workers, the timing of the effort, areas lacking adequate transit, the fiscal responsibility of the move, the negative impact that congestion pricing will have on residents of some of the lowest-income neighborhoods in New York City, and more.

Governor Hochul recently announced that she would pursue an almost immediate implementation of the congestion pricing cash grab, despite cynically "pausing" it earlier this year in an effort to win back the House. Now that her efforts have failed, she is planning to fast track this cash grab which will only serve to throw fuel on the fire of the driving force of this effort: the horrific mismanagement of the MTA's massive, bloated budget by the MTA and Hochul. It is estimated that in the next few years, the MTA will be running an annual budget deficit of \$3 billion. This continued spending comes amidst a loss of over \$700 million in revenue because of turnstile jumpers alone this past year. That does not even take into account the myriad examples of fraud and waste. In fact, the prior two MTA Inspector Generals resigned amidst concerns about accountability.

Moreover, complete and total failure to address crime is harming ridership and revenue for the agency. Last year, Siena College released polling data revealing that 61% of New Yorkers are worried about becoming victims of a crime and 87% of New Yorkers say crime is a serious problem. Subway crime particularly has skyrocketed. The NYPD reported 570 felony assaults on trains or in stations in 2023, which is the highest number since at least 1996. People should feel safe in their own communities and yet this is not the case.

As expected, the entire process of advancing this idea has been a sham and sparked numerous legal battles. Congestion pricing has only moved forward due to the MTA and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) manipulation of the FHWA's Value Pricing Pilot Program (VPPP), a pilot program initially authorized by Congress over three decades ago in 1991. The Biden Administration even conspired to allow an abbreviated environmental review in order for the program to skip the normal process.

Therefore, we request your commitment to ending this absurd congestion pricing cash grab once and for all by reversing this VPPP decision, and for your commitment to examine other revenue options for improving both MTA service and MTA facilities moving forward. Specifically, the distinct lack of access to MTA services for disabled New Yorkers is of critical concern and must be addressed, and federal revenue, coupled with measures to improve accountability within the MTA, is a top priority.

We look forward to your attention to this matter and your response.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress

CC: Susie Wiles, White House Chief of Staff