

November 4, 2013

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: S.3837/ A.5084, Transit Lockbox Bill

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write today to strongly urge you to sign the “Transit Lockbox Bill,” which was passed unanimously by the senate and the assembly. (S.3837/Senator Golden, A.5084/Assembly Member Brennan).

We greatly appreciate your remarks championing the importance of public transit in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. We are sure you appreciate the importance of dedicated transit funds for rebuilding and renewing our transit systems and keeping our economy growing.

The Transit Lockbox Bill increases fiscal transparency and public accountability—a major goal of your administration—while safeguarding dedicated transit funds. Its key provision requires the State to issue a “diversion impact statement” in the unfortunate event that state dedicated transit funds are diverted. The impact statement details what effect the diversion will have on transit service, safety and maintenance. The bill does not reduce your flexibility in the event of a fiscal crisis, it simply calls for increased transparency and disclosure.

This legislation restores the impact statement provision that was the core of the 2011 Lockbox bill that was unanimously passed by the legislature two years ago. That bill was also supported by a large group of civic, labor and business groups, the *New York Times* and *Crain's*. Unfortunately, that 2011 bill's impact statement was deleted during the December 2011 special session.

Raiding dedicated transit funds is poor policy, and a breach of trust with the public who rightly believe that transit funds should go to improving transit. . One quarter of the State's workforce relies on mass transit to get to work. They, their employers, and the economy rely on these dedicated taxes to help pay for subway, bus and commuter operations and transit capital projects.

Given your commitment to rebuilding and renewing New York's economy and infrastructure, and increasing fiscal transparency and public accountability, we join the 213 members of the New York State legislature in asking you to sign the “transit lock box” bill. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Beth Finkel
New York State Director
AARP

Lorenz Worden
President
Albany Bicycle Coalition

Daneek Miller
President
ATU Local 1056 Flushing

Peter Schiraldi
President
ATU Local 1145 Binghamton

John Lyons
President
ATU Local 1179 New York

Michael Cordiello
President
ATU Local 1181 New York

Steve Moquin
President
ATU Local 1321 Albany

Vince Crehan
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ATU Local 1342 Buffalo

John L. Ballenger
President
ATU Local 1592 Binghamton

Ronald Andrzejewski
President
ATU Local 1625 Buffalo

Jacques Chapman
President
ATU Local 282 Rochester

Ken Cameron
President
ATU Local 580 Syracuse

Danny Cassella
President
ATU Local 726 Staten Island

Matthew Gwordz
President
ATU Local 923 Amsterdam

John Lyons
Chair
ATU State Conference

Creighton Randall
Executive Director
Buffalo CarShare

Carm Basile
Chief Executive Officer
Capital District Transportation Authority

Mark Schaeffer
Chair
Capital Region Transit Advocates

Chris Hilderbrant
Chief Operating Officer
Center for Disability Rights

Bob Cohen
Policy Director
Citizen Action of New York

Caroll Kellerman
President
Citizen's Budget Commission

Doug Funke
President
Citizens for Regional Transit

Susan Lerner
Executive Director
Common Cause New York

Ross J. Pepe
President
Construction Industry Council

Peter Fleischer
Executive Director
Empire State Future
(see member list at end)

Katherine Nadeau
Policy Director
Environmental Advocates

James T.B. Tripp
Senior Counsel
Environmental Defense Fund

Justin Booth
Executive Director
GObike Buffalo

Miriam Adelman
President
League of Women Voters of NYS

Bob Fonti & Rich Bivone
Suffolk & Nassau County Chairs
Long Island Business Council

Stephanie Sapiie
Member-organizer
Long Island Bus Riders' Union

Charlene Obernauer
Executive Director
Long Island Jobs With Justice

The Steering Committee
Long Island Lobby Coalition
(see member list at end)

Lisa Tyson
Director
Long Island Progressive Coalition

Michael DeLuise
President
Melville Chamber of Commerce

Richard Schrader
NY Legislative Director
Natural Resources Defense Council

Jody Kass
Executive Director
New Partners for Community
Revitalization

Marcia Bystryn
Executive Director
New York League of Conservation Voters

Mario Cilento
President
New York State AFL-CIO

Norman Brown
Legislative Director
New York State Council of Machinists

The Steering Committee
NYS Transportation Equity Alliance
(see member list at end)

Josh Wilson
Executive Director
NY Bicycling Coalition

Gene Russianoff
Senior Attorney
NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign

Nancy Proyect
President
Orange County Citizens Foundation

Robin Dropkin
Executive Director
Parks & Trails New York

William Henderson
Executive Director
PCAC/LIRRCC/MNRCC/NYCTRC

Joan Byron
Director of Policy
Pratt Center for Community Development

Mike Governale
President
Reconnect Rochester

Bruce Darling
Executive Director
Regional Center for Independent Living

John Kaehny
Executive Director
Reinvent Albany

John Raskin
Executive Director
Riders Alliance

Roger Downs
Conservation Associate
Sierra Club

Deborah Kirnon
Director
St. Anne's Catholic Parish Outreach

Ted Houghton
Executive Director
Supportive Housing Network

Amy Engel
Executive Director
Sustainable Long Island

Paul Steely-White
Executive Director
Transportation Alternatives

Veronica Vanterpool
Executive Director
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

John Samuelsen
President
TWU Local 100

Curtis Tate
Chair
TWU State Conference

Elizabeth Yeampierre
Executive Director
Uprose: United Puerto Rican Organization
of Sunset Park

Eric Alexander
Executive Director
Vision Long Island

Duane Diggs
President
Voice Buffalo

Peggy Shepard
Executive Director
WeAct for Environmental Justice

Duff Bailey
Executive Director
Westchester-Putnam Walk-Bike Alliance

ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE SENT SEPARATE LETTERS OF SUPPORT:

Bus Association of New York

General Contractors Association

New York Building Congress

New York State AFL-CIO

New York Public Transit Association

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

Regional Plan Association

Rochester Genessee Regional Transportation Authority

COALITION MEMBER LISTS

Empire State Future

Adirondack Council • American Farmland Trust • American Institute of Architects – New York Chapter American Institute of Architects – New York State • American Planning Association – New York Upstate Chapter • Audubon – New York • Bike Walk Alliance of Westchester & Putnam • Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition • Building Performance Lab- CUNY • The Catskill Center • Centerstate Corporation for Economic Opportunity • East Coast Greenway Alliance • Environmental Advocates of New York • FXFowle Architects, PC • Green Options Buffalo • Green Village Consulting – Rochester • Hunt Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors, PC. • IBI Group • Jonathan Rose Companies • Landmark Society of Western New York • League of Women Voters of New York State • The Leyland Alliance • Local Initiative Support Corporation, Buffalo • Mid- Hudson Pattern for Progress • Natural Resources Defense Council • The Nature Conservancy – New York • NeighborWorks – Rochester • New York Bicycling Coalition • New York Civic • New York League of Conservation Voters • New York Planning Federation • New York State Association of County Health Officials • New York State Urban Council • Orange County Citizens' Foundation • Parks & Trails New York • Partners for a Livable Western New York • Partnership for the Public Good- Buffalo • Preservation League of New York State • Project For Public Spaces • Regional Plan Association • Rochester Regional Community Design Center • Scenic Hudson • Sierra Club – Atlantic Chapter • Smart Growth America • Sustainable Hudson Valley • Sustainable Long Island • Sustainable Saratoga • Sustainable South Bronx • Sustainable Tompkins • Syracuse First • The Stakeholders, Inc. • Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance • Tri- state Transportation Campaign • University Transportation Research Center, Region II (UTRC) Urban Land Institute – New York District Council • Vision Long Island • WE ACT for Environmental Justice • Wildlife Conservation Society • W X Y architecture + urban design

Long Island Lobby Coalition

AARP • American Communities Institute at Dowling College • American Planning Association—LI Chapter • Child Care Council of Nassau • Child Care Council of Suffolk • Citizens Campaign for the Environment • Concern for Independent Living • Concerned Citizens of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Community • Coram Civic Association • Cornerstone Church of God in Christ • Dowling College • Elmont Chamber of Commerce • Empire State Future • EmPower Solar • Friends of the Bay • Glen Cove Business Improvement District • Good Harvest Financial Group • Greater Smithtown Chamber of Commerce • Greenman-Pedersen Inc. • HIA-LI • Hicksville Chamber of Commerce • Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce • Laible and Fitzsimmons Inc. • Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Organization • Long Island Business Council • Long Island Federation of Labor • Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce • Long Island Housing Partnership • Long Island Minority AIDS Coalition • Long Island Software and Technology Network • Longwood Alliance • Mastic Beach Property Owners Association • Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library • Middle Island Civic Association • Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce • Neighborhood Network • New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health • New York League of Conservation Voters • Plainview/Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce • Renaissance Downtowns • Roel Resources • Save the Forge River • Selden Civic Association • Signature Organization • South Yaphank Civic Association • Sustainability Institute at Molloy College • Them TV • Tri-State Transportation Campaign • Uniondale Community Council • US Green Building Council Long Island Chapter • Verizon • Vision Long Island • Wading River Civic Association • Workforce Development Group • Youth of Ethical Societies Long Island Chapter

New York State Transportation Equity Alliance

Abyssinian Development Corporation • Action Toward Independence • Adirondack Council • Albany Bicycle Coalition • American Lung Association in New York • Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Asthma Free School Zone • ATU Local 1321 • ATU Local 726 • ATU Local 923 • BCID • Bedford Audubon Society • Belmont Housing Resources for WNY • Beyond Oil NYC • Brooklyn Greenway Initiative • Capital Region Transit Advocates (CRTA) • CCCEH • Center for Disability Rights • Center for Working Families • Citizen Action NY • Citizens Regional Transit Corporation • City Council • Clean New York • Community League of the Heights • Community Voices Heard • East Coast Greenway Alliance • Environmental Defense Fund • El Puente • Empire State Future • Environmental Advocates of New York • Environmental Justice Action Group of Western New York Fifth Ave Committee • For A Better Bronx(xx) • FXFLOWLE Architects LLP • Good Jobs NY • Harlem Childrens Zone • Healthy Community Alliance • Highbridge Community Life Center • Hudson River Sloop Clearwater • League of Woman Voters New York State • Livable Streets Education • Long Island Progressive Coalition • Membership hopefuls • Metro Justice of Rochester • Metro New York Health Care for All • Mothers on the Move • Neighborhood Network • Neighbors Allied for Good Growth • NeighborWorks Rochester, Healthy Blocks Initiative • New York Academy of Medicine • New York Bicycling Coalition • New York City Environmental Justice Alliance • New York Jobs with Justice • New York Lawyers for Public Interest • New York League of Conservation Voters • New York Public Interest Research Group, The Straphangers Campaign • New York State Apollo Alliance • Niagara Heritage Partnership • North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island • Nos Quedamos CDC • Natural Resources Defense Council • NY County Academy of Family Physicians • Project for Public Spaces • Public Health Solutions • PUSH Buffalo • Rail*Train*Ecology*Cycling • Reconnect Rochester • Recycle a Bicycle • Regional Plan Association • Resources for Children with Special Needs • RightRides • Rudin Center • Rudin Center • Scenic Hudson • Self Advocacy Association of NYS • Sierra Club New York City Group • Sinergia • St. Alliance for Health • Sustainable Flatbush • Sustainable Hudson Valley • Sustainable Long Island • Sustainable South Bronx • Syracuse First • TEN • The Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York • The Morningside Heights/West Harlem Sanitation Coalition • The Partnership for Onondaga Creek • The Point CDC • The Pratt Center • The Westchester- Putnam Bike Walk Alliance • Transportation Alternatives • Tri- State Transportation Campaign • TWU Local 100 • UPROSE • Urban Agenda • Urban Design Lab, Earth Institute at Columbia University • Vision Long Island • VOICE Buffalo • WE ACT for Environmental Justice • West Harlem Group Assistance • Ydanis City Council • Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice