

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



WILLIAM J. LINDSAY, PRESIDING OFFICER

March 23, 2009

Governor David A. Paterson  
State of New York  
Executive Chamber, The State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

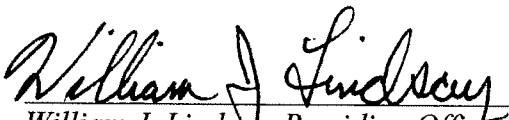
We are writing to advise you that we, the undersigned members of the Suffolk County Legislature, are strongly opposed to that portion of the MTA bailout plan that would impose a new payroll tax – the so-called “Regional Mobility Tax” – in Suffolk County and other downstate counties.

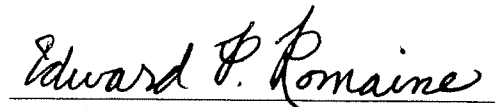
Suffolk County taxpayers already pay millions of dollars each year to subsidize MTA operations (Suffolk County’s 2009 operating budget provided \$23.8 million to the MTA). The proposed payroll tax will be an additional and unjustified burden on Suffolk’s hardworking residents, most whom derive little or no benefit from MTA operations.

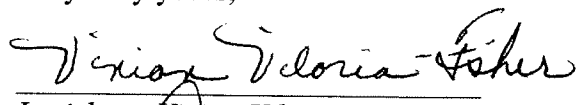
Our county, like the rest of the nation, is suffering through a historic economic crisis. Businesses are closing, homes are in foreclosure and jobs are being lost at a rate not seen in at least a generation. Very simply, an unwarranted and unfair tax increase is the last thing our local businesses and residents need or deserve.

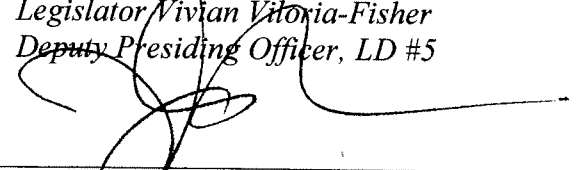
This Legislature has worked hard and made tough choices to avoid tax increases for our residents. We encourage the MTA and our leaders in state government to seek other solutions for the MTA’s fiscal problems.

Very truly yours,

  
William J. Lindsay, Presiding Officer  
LD #8

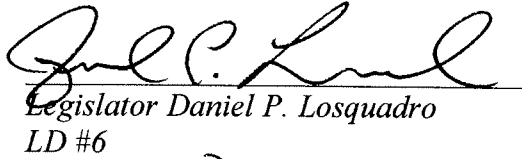
  
Legislator Edward P. Romaine  
LD #1

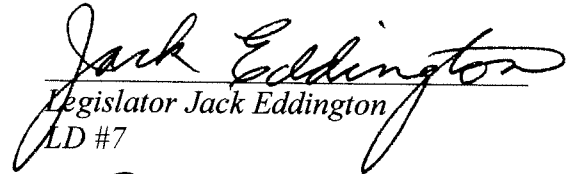
  
Legislator Vivian Victoria-Fisher  
Deputy Presiding Officer, LD #5

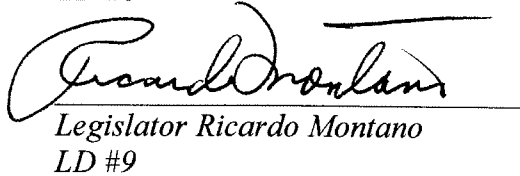
  
Legislator Jay H. Schneiderman  
LD #2

  
Legislator Kate M. Browning  
LD #3

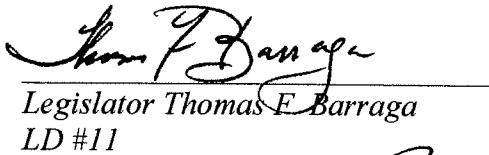
  
Legislator Brian Beedenbender  
LD #4

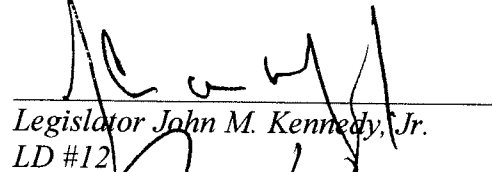
  
Legislator Daniel P. Losquadro  
LD #6

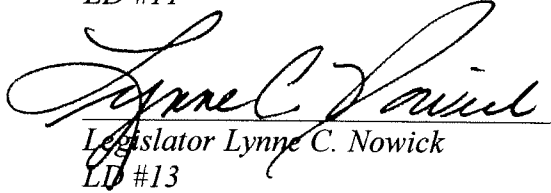
  
Legislator Jack Eddington  
LD #7

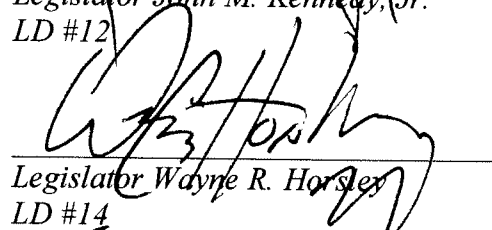
  
Legislator Ricardo Montano  
LD #9

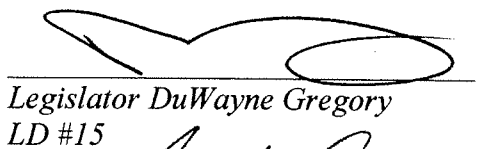
  
Legislator Cameron Alden  
LD #10

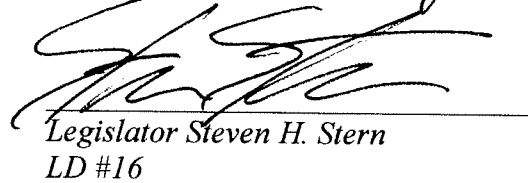
  
Legislator Thomas F. Barraga  
LD #11

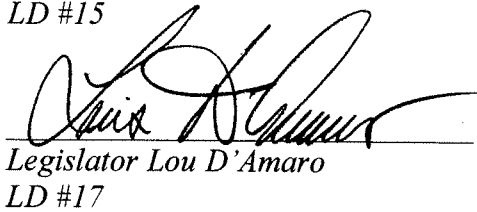
  
Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr.  
LD #12

  
Legislator Lynne C. Nowick  
LD #13

  
Legislator Wayne R. Horsley  
LD #14

  
Legislator DuWayne Gregory  
LD #15

  
Legislator Steven H. Stern  
LD #16

  
Legislator Lou D'Amato  
LD #17

  
Legislator Jon Cooper  
LD #18

WJL:bpm

Cc: Senator Malcolm Smith  
Assemblyman Sheldon Silver