

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the families of New Jersey, Staten Island, Southern Brooklyn, Hudson Valley, and Long Island, we urge you to issue a subpoena to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) for the data and documents used to calculate its toll rates for the Central Business District Tolling Program — commonly known as the “Congestion Tax.”

Since the MTA approved moving forward with their Congestion Tax proposal on December 6, they have refused to provide any figures or calculations to back up their claims on expected Congestion Tax revenue. It is imperative that Congress conduct the necessary oversight to ensure that hardworking taxpayers are not further punished for the MTA’s bureaucratic mismanagement.

We also kindly ask that the Committee hold hearings on the Congestion Tax and request testimony from MTA Chair and CEO John “Janno” Lieber, MTA Chief of External Relations John McCarthy, and Traffic Mobility Review Board Chair Carl Weisbrod. U.S. taxpayers deserve to know the exact revenue the mismanaged MTA aims to collect with its new congestion pricing scheme.

As the recipient of \$15 billion in federal funds during COVID — not to mention the billions more they receive in federal tax dollars every year — taxpayers cannot continue to fund the MTA’s black hole. Furthermore, the MTA has \$47 billion in outstanding debt, as of December 2023, and lost \$700 million to fare skippers in 2022. There needs to be appropriate federal oversight and accountability over the MTA.

Working-class families stand to be hit paying more to commute without a clear answer from the MTA on how much tax revenue it will raise. We look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

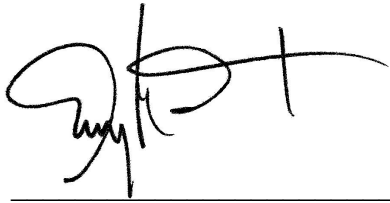
Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



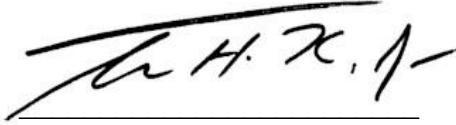
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