

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2019

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of our constituents who travel into New York every day, and our concerns that congestion pricing will have a uniformly negative impact on those commuters who drive into Manhattan.

We agree that creative solutions are needed to combat air pollution and climate change. Furthermore, making upgrades in our failing public infrastructure is of paramount importance, which is why bistate representatives have been fighting together in Washington to make the Gateway Tunnel Project a reality.

We understand that revenue from congestion pricing will be used to make transit investments, including for subway station rehabilitations and increased bus service. However, we would be remiss not to note that plans include upgrades to New York's infrastructure only, leaving out of consideration the millions of workers commuting into the city and relying on aging public transit systems, as well as roads and bridges that also need attention. These commuters will be paying the price of the new congestion fees and, as such, should also reap the benefits. As our local communities will be affected by new traffic patterns caused by the pricing scheme, we hope New Jersey will be consulted on the physical boundaries of any congestion pricing framework.

The needs of commuters in our region go beyond lower Manhattan. We implore you to consider the region as a whole and dedicate funds collected by the congestion pricing scheme to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and New Jersey Transit, rather than solely the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The Port Authority oversees bridges, tunnels, and seaports including the Holland Tunnel, Lincoln Tunnel, and George Washington Bridge connecting New Jersey with Manhattan; as well as three crossings between New Jersey and Staten Island. The PATH rail system and Port Authority Bus Terminal are also run by the Port Authority, all of which are used daily by millions of hard-working residents of our state and are in desperate need of improvement.

We should not view ourselves only as competing states, but remember that we are one region with shared economic and infrastructure needs and priorities. It is well documented that commuters more than double the population of Manhattan daily from 1.6 million to 3.1 million.

Those commuters keep New York's economy booming while straining the already-taxed roads, bridges, and mass transit system. Approximately 300,000 New Jersey residents commute into New York City daily, according to Census estimates.^[1]

These commuters should benefit from the revenue gathered by the fees many of them will pay when they drive into Manhattan. We urge you to reconsider the revenue allocation to benefit these hardworking New Jerseyans.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

^[1] https://www.nj.com/data/2018/04/explore_the_ebb_and_flow_of_new_jersey_commutes_wi_1.html