

July 29, 2013

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing on behalf of the New York Public Transit Association (NYPTA) to endorse the Transit Lockbox bill (S.3837/A.5084) and ask you to sign it into law.

NYPTA represents transit systems across the state from the MTA in New York City to small systems like the one in Watertown. Our members also include manufacturers and suppliers, as well as transit supporters. The transit industry moves millions of New Yorkers every day, and our investments support hundreds of businesses that are an important part of the state's economy.

The Lockbox bill is an important improvement to existing legislation that protects the MTA from the diversion of state funds dedicated to the MTA system. The bill extends that protection to all transit systems statewide. It requires the state to assess and report on the financial and service impacts of any budget proposal that would divert funds dedicated by state law to transit systems.

This legislation was passed unanimously by the State Senate and Assembly. The legislature has confirmed the key principle that revenues dedicated to transit which flow into the state's dedicated funds were created to provide transit systems with stable and reliable funding. The diversion impact statement in the bill is an appropriate transparency and reporting requirement, and it is consistent with the goals of your administration for a more open government.

Enactment of the Lockbox bill is an important improvement to existing law, and action is still needed to address the underlying structure of upstate transit funding. Dedicated revenues authorized for upstate transit systems help fund the state's \$175 million annual investment in upstate transit service. During the past six years, state funding for upstate transit has remained flat, while funding to MTA and other downstate transit systems has grown. NYPTA would like to work with you and the Legislature to address the structural problem with upstate transit funding and put it on a firm foundation to address the mobility needs of our communities.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to working with you to improve transit services across New York State.

Sincerely,



Carm Basile
President