

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 9, 2021

Patrick J. Foye  
Chairman and CEO  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Phillip Eng  
President  
Long Island Rail Road (LIRR)  
Jamaica Station  
Jamaica, NY 11453

Dear Mr. Foye and Mr. Eng,

Over the last year, New York has suffered greatly due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, as vaccination efforts continue to progress, New York is entering a critical phase of reopening and revitalizing our economy. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) plays a vital role in this process, which is why Congress provided \$8 billion in emergency funding last year to help maintain its operations. Additionally, another roughly \$6.5 billion in funds is expected to be available for the MTA in the immediate future.

Therefore, it was incredibly disappointing to see a new round of service cuts severely diminish train service all across Long Island, which came on the heels of last month's MTA announcement that worst case service reductions would be avoided due to the aid received and higher than expected revenues. These cuts come just as millions of Americans are returning to work and will impede the city's reopening and discourage ridership due to overcrowded trains.

Additionally, the MTA's workers, who have been rightfully praised for their heroic efforts to provide necessary service through the worst of the pandemic, have already reported thousands of contractions of COVID-19 and reported over 130 deaths. These cuts, which come at the expense of their safety, demonstrate a lack of appreciation for their efforts and only serve to damage the relationship between them and the MTA.

I urge you to immediately reconsider these service cuts, which put your riders, workers and our communities' recovery at risk.

Sincerely,



Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress