KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

keepnycfree.com

Friday, March 28, 2008 Contact: Corey Bearak (718) 343-6779/ (516) 343-6207

DOLLARS IN (MAYBE) – DOLLARS OUT (FOR REAL)

The Governor's budget just sliced another \$60 million from mass transit. So now we know why they want the Congestion Tax – So they can cut their contributions to transit – An outrage!

New Yorkers well know the long "Dollar In – Dollar Out" records of New York City and State going back several administrations of using NEW dollars to replace existing tax dollars or other revenue sources that they correspondingly slash.

This includes:

- The state lottery dollars substituted for state tax levy subsidies for education and and allowed tax dollars to be siphoned off to spend for things other than our schools.
- The Safe Streets/ Safe City program that funded the expansion of the City's police force and helped to stem the crime reduction we experience to this day included funding for human services, school safety, seniors and other non-police programs meant to enhance safety but actually REPLACED existing dollars that supported existing programs rather than create new programs or enhance existing programs.
- The E9-1-1 surcharge that was meant to sunset got used for everything under the sun while we waited and in many ways still wait for a fully enhanced emergency communications system to protect the public.

New Yorkers do not want to see money billed to deliver better service simply lost in the ozone again as the state and city and the MTA take dollars out before the new dollars go in..

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ABOUT KEEP NYC CONGESTION TAX FREE

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free represents a diverse coalition of civic, business and labor organizations and businesses throughout New York City. We share a simple vision: to keep our city congestion tax free. Our members oppose the \$8 fee (\$21 for trucks) the Mayor proposes to impose on drivers entering Manhattan below 86th Street. Our members urge New Yorkers to deliver a simple message to our legislators: "Say no to the fee the Mayor wants to charge us to enter Manhattan." Many supporters and coalition members propose alternatives to the congestion tax that better address traffic issues in our entire city and provide new sources to support mass transit. For more information, visit keepnycfree.com.