

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Canadian Wildfires Causing Asthma Emergencies in Low-Income New York City Communities...

...SO WILL CONGESTION PRICING TAX

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New York-June 13...Increased particulate matter in the air from Canadian wildfires has sent more than 1,000 New Yorkers, mostly in low-income communities, to emergency rooms with severe asthma conditions — the very same areas of the city expected to be inundated with particulate matter from traffic pattern changes that will occur once the planned \$23 Congestion Pricing Tax is implemented, the group Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free today reported.

A recent study by The Black Institute showed that Congestion Pricing would disproportionately affect New Yorkers of color, including in diminished air quality. The study titled “Just Call It a Black and Brown Toll” is available [here](#).

“The Canadian wildfires are demonstrating just how vulnerable the lungs of New Yorkers in low-income communities already are; the \$23 Congestion Pricing Tax will be another guaranteed assault on their health,” said Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free spokesman Joshua Bienstock. “Studies have shown that a Congestion Pricing Tax will divert carbon-belching truck traffic into lower-income communities of color, where children already suffer some of the highest asthma rates in the country. What’s extraordinary is that New York City, New York State, and the Biden Administration in Washington all know this, but couldn’t seem to care less. That’s outrageous.”

The \$23 Congestion Pricing Tax would erect a paywall in the exact areas of Manhattan that the City and State are trying to revive economically, following Covid-related changes to work habits.

“There are so many reasons not to implement the Congestion Pricing Tax, but President Biden, Governor Hochul, and Mayor Adams have all dug their heads into the sand, and low-income children will pay the highest price for their inaction,” Mr. Bienstock continued. “We beg government leaders to look at the data before moving forward. This is a major mistake.”

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[Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free](#), a diverse coalition of civic, business, and labor organizations and businesses throughout New York City, argues that implementing a tax on vehicles traveling south of 60th Street in Manhattan will, among other things, permanently damage efforts to revitalize the two districts.