

New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

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Contact: Bill O'Reilly, 212-396-9117

Bill@novemberteam.com

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS JOIN CLASS ACTION SUIT DEMANDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY ON CONGESTION PRICING TAX

*New York – Feb. 27...*Nearly two dozen small business owners have signed onto a class action lawsuit demanding that a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS) be completed before any congestion price tax scheme moves forward, the group New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax today announced. Only a full EIS study can determine the economic impact of the tax on New Yorkers and New York businesses, the group said.

A \$15 daily congestion pricing tax (\$22.50 without EZ Pass) is scheduled to go into effect within months on drivers entering Manhattan south of 60th Street — the exact area of the city that New York City and New York State are ostensibly looking to revive post Covid.

The class action suit — [available here](#) — includes plaintiffs from all five boroughs who would be materially harmed by the controversial tax. Plaintiffs include former and current elected officials, small business owners, community leaders, and other concerned individuals. The suit was first filed January 18 in the Southern District of New York United States District Court.

“It’s no wonder that small business owners are signing onto this class action suit,” said New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax spokeswoman Susan Lee. “A congestion tax could deal a fatal blow to many of Manhattan’s core businesses, particularly restaurants and other small retail shops below 60th Street. Why add an impediment to traveling into Manhattan when so many businesses there are struggling to recover?”

“This arbitrary and regressive toll-tax will make living in New York more expensive for everybody,” said New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax member Corey Bearak. “A congestion tax will significantly increase delivery prices, and those costs will invariably be passed along to consumers. It’s not just drivers getting hit by this tax, it’s everyone.”

The Congestion Pricing Tax was signed into law in 2019 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has since called for its repeal. This class action suit joins at least two other lawsuits — one by the State of New Jersey and one by the United Federation of Teachers and Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella — to stop congestion pricing in its tracks.

The plaintiffs maintain that the congestion pricing tax will also increase traffic and air pollution in parts of the city, create medical hardships, and effectively strand hundreds of thousands of working-class New Yorkers living in transit deserts.

“Environmental Impact Studies are required in New York for virtually every major project, but the MTA found a way to skirt those requirements because it didn’t want the public and business community to know the true impact of their plan,” Mr. Bearak continued. “That’s outrageous. Everyday New Yorkers have a right to know what the MTA will be doing to their air quality, livelihoods, and health care needs.”

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New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax is a coalition of residents from diverse neighborhoods around New York City who have initiated a lawsuit to demand that the Federal Highway Administration perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to show the real impacts of Congestion Pricing (CP) on our communities. The federal government and the Metropolitan Transit Authority rushed an incomplete Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) instead of applying the more extensive and comprehensive EIS. An EIS would properly examine the three E's: Environmental Impacts, Economic Hardship, and Equity.