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For Immediate Release: September 26, 2021

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“The case against congestion pricing” ***made by NYS Assembly Member Michael Lawler*** ***in Sunday NY DailyNews Op-Ed***

The Assembly Member who represents much of Rockland County concludes: “Congestion pricing would cost us far more than we could gain from it. Times have changed, there are new revenue alternatives, and it was a bad idea from the get go.”

Rockland County State Assembly Member Michael Lawler, in a New York Sunday Daily News [op-ed](#) on the current congestion pricing tax scheme, writes **“Congestion pricing was never a good idea. Now, it’s a terrible idea — one that’s completely unnecessary.”**

The Assembly member urges: **“Gov. Hochul should stop it dead in its tracks before irreparable harm is done to the city and state.”**

He notes how Covid has changed things: **“New York State’s chief economic engine is critically damaged. Downtown and Midtown Manhattan are shells of what they once were. Offices are empty, storefronts are shuttered, and with the rise of contagious new COVID variants, the future remains terribly uncertain.”**

He also emphasizes that **“the very rationale for a congestion pricing tax — more money for the transit system — has been turned on its head. With sufficient political will those dollars could be made available through the federal stimulus program, and even more so through the likely \$1 trillion infrastructure bill expected to pass Congress presently.”**

The Assembly Member reminds us how **“congestion pricing made little sense: For one, it’s [regressive](#), hitting low-income New Yorkers in transit deserts hardest. Two, it would do nothing to lower traffic density south of 60th St., where the problem is for-hire vehicles, not commuters from the outer boroughs and suburbs.”**

Assembly Member Lawler states what we all know: **“In a state with some of the highest taxes and utility fees in America, the last thing we need is another expense.”**

View the better ways that make sense to truly address congestion in the central business district and raise the dollars needed to resource the MTA to not only pay for needed repairs but also increase access and make the entire system more accessible and equitable for the entire city.

Read the full op-ed, “[The case against congestion pricing](#),” by NYS Assembly Member Michael Lawler, in the September 26, 2021 Daily News.

-30-

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