

Keep NYC Free

www.keepnycfree.com

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Somethin' Stupid

A few outside the city senators acted rather curiously over this legislative break. On the Second day of Passover (see date of the bill), they introduced a bill to knock out the MTA payroll tax for all MTA counties but the five boroughs and authorize the imposition of a congestion tax on the free East River bridges – note that S4774 does not reflect the recent renaming of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge. NYC Free demonstrated the folly of the imposition of tolls as unfair, inequitable and an inefficient tax scheme.

Nothing changed there. Their cheap attempt to secure local votes next year fails to reflect that facts that local school districts are not subject to the fiscal impact of the tax and that NYC employers who employ their constituents will continue to pay the levy – perhaps at a competitive disadvantage with local firms in the district.

Do they only care about jobs in the district and care nothing about constituents who work within the five boroughs?

Did they think out their legislation?

Moreover, perhaps they did not read the papers or blogs or the tube.

Not even a month into 2011, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos made clear his view: “I opposed it in the past and I don't believe it is the right way to go.”

As to the folly of tolling free bridges, traffic pricing/ congestion pricing/ have name they'll play it, Keep NYC Free continues to remind those apparently forgetful of a tax scheme so patently unfair it got rejected twice (In most adult softball, two swings usually works as a strikeout.).

This commentator once faced accusations by some failed “cap'n” of relying on just one music genre for applicable lyrics or song titles for some of these commentaries. Well, in the internal discussions preceding this post, one team member suggested “Frank would have” in response to a suggestion that we reprise some of our unassailable critiques of the congestion tax. In honor of that interchange, we borrow the title of Mr. Sinatra's second gold single (with daughter Nancy, issued on *Reprise Records*).