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COALITION OF CONCERNED NEW YORKERS CALLS ON LEGISLATURE TO REJECT CONGESTION PRICING PROPOSAL THAT WOULD DRAMATICALLY IMPACT MIDDLE CLASS COMMUTERS

The coalition, *Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free*, also reject data provided by the Governor's office that significantly undercounted automobile commuters into Manhattan.

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free, a coalition of homeowners, civic groups, business associations and concerned citizens throughout the New York metropolitan area, called today on elected officials in the State Legislature to reject Governor Cuomo's congestion tax proposal and disputed the data underlying the Governor's argument.

"The number of commuters into Manhattan via automobile is in fact nearly ten times that cited by the Governor's office according to the U.S. Census Bureau's own statistics," said Joshua Bienstock, a spokesman for Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free. "Congestion pricing can't simultaneously be a miracle fix to the subway's funding problems and also affect virtually zero commuters, as the Governor's office wants to claim. The Governor should be straightforward about this proposal that will be a significant financial burden on well over 100,000 New Yorkers on a daily basis."

According to data compiled by Appleseed, a New York-based firm that has been conducting economic impact analysis studies for over 25 years, the percentage of commuters who use automobiles to travel to Manhattan varies from a low of 7.95% in Brooklyn to up to 23.75% in Staten Island. Nearly 50,000 commuters (13.4%) make the trek each day from Queens alone. Furthermore, Appleseed estimate that roughly 25% of commuters from Westchester and Nassau commuter by car, truck or van. These numbers all far exceed the Governor's released data, which ranged from 1.3% in Brooklyn to 2.2% in Queens.

"The Governor is demanding that the Legislature approve a major new tax on working New Yorkers while putting forth dubious data and without providing any meaningful detail about how much they will be charged to enter the Manhattan central business district," said Bienstock. "The facts are the facts - middle class New Yorkers will see their cost of living increased by this misguided proposal."

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free is a coalition dedicated to preventing the middle-class tax hike known as Congestion Pricing from being enacted in New York. Learn more at www.KeepNYCFree.com

Data Compiled by Appleseed

Commuters by car, truck or van as a share of all commuters from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten island to Manhattan (U.S. Census Bureau, Census Transportation Planning Package)

	Total commuters to Manhattan	Commute by car, truck or van
Bronx	191,620	27,625 (14.4%)
Brooklyn	391,010	31,090 (7.95%)
Queens	370,254	49,625 (13.4%)
Staten Island	52,940	12,575 (23.75%)
Total	1,005,824	120,905 (12.02%)

About 25% of all those who commute from Westchester and Nassau commute by car, truck or van.