

Keep NYC Free

www.keepnycfree.com

For Immediate Release: September 8, 2022

Contact: Corey Bearak
(718) 343-6779; cell: (516) 343-6207

Spare the Bronx in congestion plan

Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-Bronx) penned an [op-ed](#) in the *Daily News* today (Thursday, September 8, 2022) that points out the detrimental impacts of the Congestion Tax scheme on the Bronx aka an *Environmental Justice* community. Torres wrote, “I strenuously object to any plan that would divert diesel truck traffic from Manhattan to the Bronx, particularly the Cross Bronx Expressway. The Bronx cannot and will not be a sacrificial lamb on the altar of the Central Business District.”

Torres noted how the MTA’s Environmental Assessment discloses each of the toll-tax options “examined” would exacerbate the massive congestion, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions caused by some 15,000 diesel truck trips to and from the Hunts Point Food market and tens of thousands more that use the Cross Bronx Expressway. Torres emphasizes the prevalence of asthma as a result.

The thoughtful Member of Congress posed two questions: “Is it fair to create less congestion, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in Manhattan at the cost of creating more in the Bronx? Is it fair to treat the Bronx as little more than a dumping ground for Manhattan’s diesel truck traffic?”

He concludes, “The people of the Bronx need something more tangible than feel-good rhetoric about racial equity and environmental justice. We need real investments that offer a clean and green break from the environmental racism of the past.”

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free responds that, since the Congestion Tax scheme [fails on every level](#), the best recommendation involves alternatives to the [regressive tax scheme](#) [“No matter how you cut it, [it] will be a regressive tax that hurts working families,” stated the then chair of the City Council’s Progressive Caucus.] that provide sound [revenue sources](#).