



## **Testa Voices Opposition to MTA Bailout**

***Former Mayor and candidate for Westchester County Legislator says this could be the fatal blow to the financial future of Westchester families***

***Applauds local leaders who voted against the measure***

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The recent approval by the NY State Legislature to bailout the Metropolitan Transit Authority is exactly what State Senator Vincent Leibell described as “a crisis for New York.” With Westchester County already labeled as the highest taxed county in the county adding this type of financial hit to the working families of the county could be the fatal blow to their economic future. Simply put: The taxpayers of Westchester and their families can’t take any more!

The most devastating component to the bailout is the proposed payroll tax. Every business, no matter the size will be forced to pay this tax along with not-for-profit agencies, school districts, local governments, EVERYBODY! The only way this new burden will be able to be absorbed by those who have to pay it is by eliminating jobs and increasing taxes. School districts are about to complete their budgets for next year, how will they be able to accommodate this payment at this late stage?

The payroll tax is just one of the ways the bailout is structured. There will also be increased fees for auto registrations, surcharges on cab rides and car rentals, and a transit fair increase. All this was created without any public input from those who will be affected or any discussion on ways to reduce MTA spending, forensic audits or management review. The entire package is a \$2.26 billion extortion of NY State taxpayers.

In Westchester alone, the payroll tax alone will cost municipalities and school districts at least \$13.6 million and the County itself an additional \$1.6 million. For the many residents of Northern Westchester who commute via mass transit for work will be required to pay higher fees just to get to work to make the money that will be needed to pay the heist taxes in the land. It is simply outrageous.

I applaud our local State representatives Senator Leibell and Assemblyman Ball for voting against this bailout. I would also like to thank our local County Legislator George Oros and his colleagues Burrows and Maisano for also speaking loudly against the bailout as well and putting in perspective its effects on Westchester. I just wish there were more representatives who joined them.