



Brian Curran
Assemblyman, 21st District

THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

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November 9, 2015

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Patrick J. Foye, Executive Director
Corporate Offices
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Prospective access tax at New York airports

Dear Director Foye:

I am writing today to respectfully voice my opposition to your exploration of instituting an access tax at New York airports in the metropolitan area, specifically John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and LaGuardia Airport. To that end, I speak for my constituents and the millions of New Yorkers who use these airports annually when I express my opposition to this prospective tax on passengers.

Let me be frank, the Port Authority is not in any foreseeable financial trouble that would make a tax like this beneficial or warranted. Simply because other airports on the East Coast have begun instituting such taxes on taxi and other services, as reports have indicated, does not mean that authorities like yours should follow suit. It is clearly a money grab that is in no one's interest but that of the Port Authority. The authority's reasoning for exploring a tax because of "recent changes in ground passenger preferences" that "have dramatically altered vehicle behavior at the airport frontages, causing operational problems" is something that remains to be seen.

While I do understand that the Port Authority has some major projects on the horizon (i.e. the rail tunnels under the Hudson River; the revamping of the bus terminal in Manhattan; bridge work; and the revitalizing of LaGuardia Airport, to name a few), a four or five dollar tax will not even remotely accommodate or offset these capital expenses, nor should it.

I do not have to tell you that New York State is one of the highest-taxing states in this nation, and to implement yet *another* tax on businesses and families alike is, for lack of a better word, outrageous. Regardless of preference, when passengers travel, they are looking for the least expensive way to do so; so implementing a tax that will be passed on to passengers for your authority's financial benefit is wrong.

I urge you to take these concerns into consideration while evaluating this proposal. If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian Curran
Member of Assembly
21st District