



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Frank K. Skartados
Assemblyman 104th District

Dutchess, Orange, and
Ulster Counties

Didi Barrett
Assemblymember 106th District

Columbia and
Dutchess Counties

July 26, 2013

Thomas F. Prendergast
Metropolitan Transit Authority President
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Howard R. Permut
Metro-North President
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

To Mr. Prendergast and Mr. Permut:

Today, we write to express our frustration with the most recent 5.1 percent parking lot rate increase that will be imposed at the Beacon and Poughkeepsie Metro-North stations, among others.

Following the on average 7.5 percent fare hike imposed just this past March, the upcoming increase is simply unfair to the already struggling families in our region. On average, the most recent rate hike will now have the typical commuter paying \$358 a year simply to park their car at the MTA stations.

In addition, the move also highlights the need to give Dutchess and Orange counties their own separate, full vote on the MTA Board. Currently, the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Rockland have had their hands tied, rendering them powerless against Metro-North's soaring hikes due to their shared vote. Anything short of a full vote is unfair to the commuters in those communities and will only further exacerbate the already dire issue of skyrocketing rates.

Jacking the price up once again for Metro-North commuters mere months after the roughly 7.5 percent fare hike is unacceptable. These people are already shouldering a heavy burden. Our constituents pay full fares and taxes – they deserve full representation. In doing so, we can be more likely to see fairer rates for the thousands of commuters from these under-represented areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Skartados".

Frank Skartados
Member of Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Didi Barrett".

Didi Barrett
Member of Assembly

CC: James L. Sedore, Jr., Dutchess County MTA Board member
CC: Susan G. Metzger, Orange County MTA Board member