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August 7, 2018

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Please sign A.8511 (Dinowitz)/ S.6807 (Golden)

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to urge you to sign A.8511 (Dinowitz)/ S.6807 (Golden), which creates a “lockbox” for taxes and fees intended solely to fund the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). The bill further requires a financial impact statement prior to diversion of any dedicated MTA revenue streams.

The Building Congress has published research observing that several dedicated transportation funding sources worth billions of dollars have been redirected over the last fifteen years to cover gaps in the State’s general budget.

More recently, immediately following approval of the Payroll Mobility Tax – the largest single dedicated source of revenue for the MTA – the State “swept” more than \$260 million from the MTA’s budget. The PMT itself has been used to pay for operating expenses though originally it was intended to pay for capital construction. These are but a few examples of the budget gymnastics the MTA has been forced to perform as direct government support has shrunk.

New York State must not rely on revenues dedicated to the MTA to fund other operations. The practice does not address the systemic imbalance in the State’s general fund while having serious long term negative impacts on the MTA’s operating and capital budgets.

For these reasons, the Building Congress urges you to sign A.8511/S.6807.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlo Scissura'.

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.  
President and CEO  
New York Building Congress