

**LIZ KRUEGER  
SENATOR, 28<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

ALBANY OFFICE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 808  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2297  
FAX (518) 426-6874

DISTRICT OFFICE  
211 EAST 43<sup>RD</sup> STREET, STE. 1201  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017  
(212) 490-9535  
FAX (212) 499-2558  
E-MAIL  
LKRUEGER@NYSENATE.GOV

**NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE**

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
FINANCE

COMMITTEES:  
CODES  
ELECTIONS  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION  
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
MENTAL HEALTH &  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
RULES

July 25, 2017

Mr. Joseph Lhota  
Chairman  
MTA Board  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Chairman Lhota,

I write in regard to the MTA's proposal for an Emergency Ventilation Plant on the Lexington Avenue Subway Line just South of Grand Central Station. I have been involved in the review process of this project, along with other elected officials, and members of our community regarding the scope, prioritization, and cost of this project. Throughout the process, my priority has been to balance my commitment to the safety of subway riders with the impact that this project might have on the individuals who live, work, and pass through this area. As you evaluate the many issues facing the MTA, I urge you to review whether this project is necessary to ensure subway safety. I also urge you to ensure that if it is necessary, there is coordination between this project and other MTA and Department of Transportation (DOT) projects in Murray Hill.

Previous MTA leadership called for the construction of the Emergency Ventilation Plant on the basis of a 1994 safety study, but then postponed this project in order to fund other non-safety-related projects. I believe it is appropriate to review whether the 1994 analysis is still relevant given the many changes to the system that have occurred in the interim, including the construction of new tunnels for East Side Access in the same area.

If the project is determined to still be required to ensure the safety of the system, there needs to be coordination with other projects in the Murray Hill area. The timing is troubling considering the area is currently burdened with other projects including East Side Access construction and DOT projects in the Grand Central area. I was concerned that the MTA's response in the final EIS seemed to indicate an unwillingness to coordinate with these other projects. I urge the MTA to use an inter-agency approach to address additional concerns as they arise.

I know that you are currently reviewing MTA priorities to ensure that the MTA's limited resources are best allocated to ensure the safety and efficiency of subway, rail, and bus systems. I believe that the Emergency Ventilation Plant Project should be considered in this context, particularly since the project is based on a 23 year-old study and is now pressed even further into the future. I urge the MTA to use contemporary transportation data and cost benefit analyses to prioritize their capital projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Krueger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Krueger  
State Senator