



**VIA EMAIL**

June 10, 2019

Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor, State of New York

Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Temporary President, New York State Senate

Carl Heastie  
Speaker, New York State Assembly

Re: Keep the MTA Board Residency Requirement

Dear Governor Cuomo, Temporary President Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie,

Reinvent Albany urges you to respect section 1263 of the Public Authorities Law which requires that Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board members appointed by the governor, other than the CEO/Chairman, must live within the twelve counties of the metropolitan commuter transportation district. If all of you believe the residency requirements should be eliminated, we ask that you change the law via the regular legislative process, including a committee hearing that gives the public and their elected representatives an opportunity to speak on the record.

Use of a residency exemption to appoint Mr. Mujica or any other individual to the MTA Board would set a precedent that members of state boards do not have to meet all the requirements in law. The requirements were passed by the Legislature to ensure that MTA subway, bus, and commuter rails passengers are represented by people who experience MTA services and dedicated taxes firsthand. With over 13 million residents in the metropolitan commuter transportation district, there are surely other qualified candidates to serve on the MTA Board.

There is real value in having representatives not only bring relevant expertise to the MTA Board, but also direct experience as residents of the metropolitan commuter transportation district. The law was designed to include residency requirements for this purpose, and should be respected.

Sincerely,

John Kaehny  
Executive Director

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148 Lafayette, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10013