

APA NY METRO CHAPTER  
FISCAL POLICY INSTITUTE  
NYPIRG/STRAPHANGERS CAMPAIGN  
PRATT CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION  
TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN  
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

May 19, 2009

The Honorable David A. Paterson  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York 12224

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine  
Governor of the State of New Jersey  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of the City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Governor Paterson, Governor Corzine and Mayor Bloomberg:

We are writing to express our concern over recent reports that up to \$3 billion could be diverted from the region's transportation network to fund speculative office building on the World Trade Center site. The dispute between the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Silverstein Properties represents yet another difficult hurdle in the effort to rebuild Lower Manhattan following the attacks of September 11, 2001. A critical part of this effort is restoration and improvement of the transit system that connects Lower Manhattan to the rest of the region.

We urge you to help resolve this dispute expeditiously, and to insure that no additional public funds are used to subsidize office construction on the site. These funds are more essential to improving transportation access to both Lower Manhattan and Midtown, in particular building a new PATH terminal and a new rail passenger tunnel underneath the Hudson River to provide badly needed capacity and redundancy for the century-old trans-Hudson tunnels. These investments will support new commercial activity, but it is the responsibility of the private sector to absorb the risks of new construction.

We realize that redevelopment of the Trade Center site requires complex choices. However, in a time of limited resources, investment in the region's transportation system needs to be given priority.

Sincerely,

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Regional Plan Association

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Cc:

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