



NEWS FROM THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator George Maziarz
62nd Senate District

Assemblyman Robin Schimminger
140th Assembly District

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Legislation would Add Non-Voting Member to NFTA Board to Represent Transit Riders

Assemblyman Robin Schimminger and Senator George Maziarz announced today that they have introduced legislation (A.9455/S.6536) that would allow the Governor to appoint a second non-voting member to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) Board of Commissioners to represent the transit dependent and/or disabled communities.

The appointment of this member would ensure that the interests of the disabled and transit dependent communities, which make up a significant percentage of the NFTA ridership base, are represented and considered by the voting members of the board. Currently, the board consists of one chairperson, 10 other voting members and one non-voting member from the public transportation workers' labor organization.

“The existing appointment process allows the Governor to appoint board members from any group or constituency; however, the addition of a non-voting member from the transit dependent and/or disabled communities would ensure input from these often under-represented communities, and in turn result in better public service,” said Assemblyman Robin Schimminger.

“Having a representative from the transit dependent and/or disabled communities on the NFTA board is of utmost importance, especially when the routes they are dependent on have been considered being cut in light of the current budget situation,” said Senator George Maziarz. “It is imperative that the voice of this group be heard, so that the NFTA can best accommodate all of its passengers.”

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The operations and practices of the NFTA have been called into question and scrutinized in recent months, as the authority has grappled with a \$15 million operating deficit, according to the lawmakers. The NFTA has been looking for ways to improve its operations services in the wake of ongoing budgetary issues.

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