

From: "Rep. Michael Lawler" <repmikelawler@mail.house.gov> To: Peter.Finocchio@mail.house.gov Subject: Fighting for Hudson Valley Taxpayers Date: Fri, 02 Feb 2024 18:10:58 -0500 Unsubscribe: <https://lawler.house.gov/Forms/EmailSignup/?Delete=true&MessageID=415&Email=Peter.Finocchio@mail.house.gov>

Fighting for Hudson Valley Taxpayers body, table, td, a{-webkit-text-size-adjust: 100%; -ms-text-size-adjust: 100%;} /* Prevent WebKit and Windows mobile changing default text sizes */

img{-ms-interpolation-mode: bicubic;} /* Allow smoother rendering of resized image in Internet Explorer */ /* RESET STYLES */img { border: 0; height: auto; line-height: 100%; outline: none; text-decoration: none; }table { border-collapse: collapse !important; }body { height: 100% !important; margin: 0 !important; padding: 0 !important; width: 100% !important; }strong { font-weight: bold; } /* Editor reset */ /* FIRESIDE STYLES */.component img {max-width:600px;}.component table {mso-table-rspace:10pt; border-collapse:collapse;}.component { padding: 0px !important; }.press {padding-bottom: 0px;}@media all and (max-width:650px) { .image-1, .caption-1, .img-1 img, .image-1 tr, .image-1 td, .image-2, .img-2 img, .image-2 tr, .image-2 td {max-width: 100% !important; width: 100% !important;}.responsive-table {width:100% !important;}.responsive-table img {max-width:100% !important; height: auto !important;}.press .component, .press td {text-align:center;}.component { margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 20px;}.component .responsive-table { margin-left: 0px !important; margin-right: 0px !important;}.wide .video-thumb { width: 100% !important; height: auto !important; }.wide .video-container { width: 100% !important; }.component.full-width {margin-left: 0px; margin-right: 0px; } } /* CLIENT-SPECIFIC STYLES */ body, table, td, a{-webkit-text-size-adjust: 100%; -ms-text-size-adjust: 100%;} /* Prevent WebKit and Windows mobile changing default text sizes */ table, td{mso-table-lspace: 0pt; mso-table-rspace: 0pt;} /* Remove spacing between tables in Outlook 2007 and up */

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Friday, February 2, 2024 Peter, Over the course of the past year, my fellow New York Republicans and I have been engaging in thoughtful conversations with House leadership and with our colleagues on SALT, an expanded child tax credit, and other key priorities for our district and our state. The tax bill passed by the House this week, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, addressed a number of those issues, including historic small business tax cuts and an expanded child tax credit which will uplift tens of thousands of families in New York's 17th District.

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Representative Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05) and I had sent a joint letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee urging this important inclusion. You can read that joint letter below: While the expanded child tax credit and small business tax cuts are important wins for struggling middle class families and workers, our work is not yet done. I have been clear from the start that we must address the unfair SALT cap, especially for married couples who are hit with a massive tax penalty. That's why the very first bill I introduced was the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, fixing this tax penalty and letting married joint return filers deduct \$20,000. Currently, they can only deduct a combined \$10,000 while individual filers are able to deduct \$10,000 each. Earlier this week, I joined together with other New York Republican colleagues to force action on this issue by voting initially to prevent a rule package from moving forward. After back and forth discussions, Speaker Johnson and House leadership agreed to bring the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act to the floor for a vote. Yesterday morning, that legislation was heard by the House Rules Committee where it passed by an 8-to-5 margin. It is expected to be brought to the House floor next week and I will continue working with colleagues in both parties to ensure its passage. You can listen to some of my comments from the Rules hearing on my bill below: I was disappointed that some of my colleagues who claim to support SALT

relief chose to belittle the effort and oppose this bill. Quite frankly, they were here when the SALT cap was imposed in 2017 and could have prevented it. I was not. Congressman Brad Schneider (D-IL-10), who debated in opposition to my measure, serves on the Ways and Means Committee, which crafted the tax bill we voted on this week. I do not. That has not stopped me from doing everything in my power to deliver on this important issue for our district. You can watch a portion of my exchange with Rules Committee Ranking Member Jim McGovern (D-MA-02) on this topic below: I was encouraged by Speaker Johnson's commitment to advance the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act and by the Rules Committee's vote to bring it to the full body. I'm laser-focused on finishing the job and getting this bill passed and signed into law. I've been proud to work with my colleague Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05) on many issues, from expanding the Child Tax Credit to fighting for SALT relief to supporting Israel and standing up to antisemitism. Another one of the issues directly impacting our communities that we've worked on is combatting congestion pricing - the MTA's cash grab which takes money from hardworking suburban commuters without providing them any tangible improvement in services in return. In fact, Rockland County is still without a one-seat ride to Manhattan. That means Rockland residents who commute to the City for work - including law enforcement officers, first responders, teachers, healthcare workers and many others on a fixed budget - will be paying thousands more in tolls each year just to get to work. As Co-Chairs of the Anti-Congestion Tax Caucus, Representative Gottheimer and I have been working to reverse this catastrophe for over a year, including through legislation we introduced together, the Anti-Congestion Tax Act. The Wall Street Journal just ran our joint op-ed on this: WELCOME TO NEW YORK. THAT'LL BE 100 BUCKS By Representatives Mike Lawler and Josh Gottheimer The Wall Street Journal I February 1, 2024 We are from different states and political parties. Our views on issues vary widely. But on at least one thing, we passionately agree: New York's "congestion pricing" plan for Midtown Manhattan, scheduled to begin later this year, is a greedy and unnecessary cash grab. It's a slap in the face to hardworking families, small-business owners and commuters who want to put food on their family tables. It should be repealed, root and branch. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs public transportation in New York, stands to benefit from the revenue generated by congestion pricing. If the agency has its way, drivers entering Manhattan south of 60th Street will pay a daily driving tax of \$15-nearly \$4,000 a year-if they have an E-ZPass account. Those without one will be billed \$22.50 a day by mail. New York being New York, it doesn't stop there. The MTA has unilateral authority to declare "Gridlock Alert Days" whenever it needs to line its pockets more, which will add 25% surge pricing to the daily invoice. The state has also reserved the authority to raise the congestion tax by 10% in 2024, its very first year. For drivers entering the city from New Jersey and suburban Rockland County, N.Y., the congestion tax is a looming nightmare. Drivers will pay as much as \$24.75 a day on top of the \$17-a-day bridge and tunnel tolls, plus the cost of gasoline and parking. A single trip into the city could easily cost families \$100 before they even get a cup of coffee or a bite to eat. New York is ostensibly trying

to get workers to return to the office and diners, viewers and shoppers back into Manhattan restaurants, theaters and retail stores. Good luck with that. To add insult to injury, the state disingenuously marketed the tax to the public. We were told it would stop gridlock. It won't. We were told it would improve air quality. In fact, it will make it worse for hundreds of thousands of drivers and adjacent neighborhoods. We were told the MTA-the worst-run transportation agency in America-needs the money as leverage for more borrowing. The MTA would be flush with cash if it were even moderately well run. The agency, which loses more than \$700 million annually in unpaid fares, was flooded with billions of federal Covid-19 recovery dollars in recent years. Much of that money has been swallowed up by historic cost overruns. We just learned that another \$1 billion will be wasted to build unnecessarily large Second Avenue subway stations-much of which the public will never see. Notably, \$1 billion is exactly what the MTA claims the congestion tax will produce in revenue during its first year. But its math is wrong. According to an analysis performed by Mr. Gottheimer's office, the agency will actually collect \$3.4 billion annually from drivers. The MTA's own assessments describe how the congestion tax will increase traffic in many New York and New Jersey neighborhoods and reroute carbon-belching truck traffic into low-income communities that already suffer from some of the highest asthma rates in the nation. A January 2023 study by the Black Institute titled "Just Call It a Black and Brown Toll" showed how the congestion tax will disproportionately affect inner-city communities. Their pleas have fallen on deaf ears. The MTA's most egregious sin continues to be its blatant, thoughtless disregard for how it uses taxpayer money. The agency is always crying broke, but it never fixes what's wrong. The Second Avenue subway cost New Yorkers \$4.45 billion for two miles of track-\$1.26 million a yard. The congestion tax is much the same: a shameless cash grab. After decades of overspending, incompetence and mismanagement, the MTA should focus on cleaning up its own mess. Hardworking families shouldn't be forced to subsidize failure. Mr. Lawler, a Republican, represents New York's 17th Congressional District. Mr. Gottheimer, a Democrat, represents New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District. I will continue fighting for the relief we need - on taxes, on tolls, and on reversing the crippling affordability crisis that is impacting so many families across the Hudson Valley and across our nation. I look forward to keeping you updated on these efforts. I was appalled by the footage of police officers in New York City being assaulted by a migrant mob last weekend. Astoundingly, each of those apprehended were subsequently released back onto the street without bail, have fled New York, and will likely never pay for their crimes. The House passed the POLICE Act last May, which would make assaulting a police officer a deportable offense. I was proud to support and see it pass the House in a bipartisan vote. Unfortunately, this is yet another bill dealing with the consequences of the migrant crisis the Senate has refused to act on. Individuals who harm or endanger law enforcement officers should be prosecuted. That's why I cosponsored and voted for the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, which the House also passed this week in a bipartisan vote. This bill is named after Border Patrol Agent Raul Gonzalez, who was tragically killed in the line of

duty, and will create new offenses for migrants who evade federal law enforcement authorities. Additionally, the House passed the Protect our Communities from DUIs Act yesterday. This bipartisan bill will make driving while intoxicated or impaired grounds for barring a non-U.S. national from admission into the U.S. as well as grounds for deportation. Driving Under the Influence is a serious crime that claims the lives of 37 Americans a day according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. We simply must take this crime seriously. To that end, I'm proud to have been recognized by the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility as a recipient of their 2023 Legislator Award. The award is given to recognize "exceptional leadership in eliminating impaired driving and promoting alcohol responsibility." I will continue working with my colleagues to combat drunk driving and the scourge of alcohol abuse. Rep. Lawler is recognized by the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility. We also passed the Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act this week, which will bar non-U.S. nationals from admission into the U.S. who have committed Social Security fraud and make this a deportable offense. I have vowed from the beginning to protect Social Security for those who rely on it and for future generations. That includes going after those who commit the reprehensible act of stealing the hard-earned savings of workers and the elderly. You can find additional information about these bills along with other pieces of legislation the House passed this week below: I look forward to keeping you posted on the progress of these bills through the Senate, my SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, my efforts to combat congestion pricing, and additional legislation being deliberated on by the 118th Congress! My team and I have continued to attend events across the district this week. This week we recognized community organizations, congratulated student athletes, celebrated business openings, and welcomed new citizens to our country and community. Here are some of the highlights from throughout the week! Clockwise from Top-Left: Rep. Lawler and his office recognize Quisqueya Sports Club at their 2024 Domino championship games kickoff, celebrate the grand opening of the new Century 21 Elite Branch Office, welcome new citizens at Rockland County's naturalization ceremony, and congratulate Spring Valley's youth football players on their DIII National AYF Championship. We appreciate the opportunity each week to chat with so many constituents, partners, and community stakeholders about the important work we are doing in D.C. and the district! With so many events going on across the 17th District all the time, my team and I are looking forward to continuing to meet with constituents. It is a privilege to get around our district every week and I look forward to seeing you and your family soon! We are holding a ceremony again this year to recognize members of our community for Black History Month and are collecting nominations of exceptional black leaders from across the Hudson Valley for special Congressional recognition. See additional details below and [CLICK HERE](#) to nominate someone for this special honor! At our Black History Month celebration last year, we recognized 18 honorees for their contributions to our community - among whom were pastors, healthcare workers, law enforcement officers, community volunteers, and individuals from every walk of life. Rep.

Lawler honors 18 residents at his office's 2023 Black History Month Ceremony. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to recognize some more of our outstanding NY-17 residents at our Black History Month commemoration this year. Again, you can nominate someone for recognition by [CLICKING HERE](#)! Rep. Lawler.

The migrant crisis is costing New Yorkers billionsVarney & Co. | Fox Business | February 2, 2024 Reps. Lawler and Moskowitz urge SHIP Act Senate Passage on CNNThe Lead with Jake Tapper | CNN | January 31, 2024 Reps. Lawler and Moskowitz urge SHIP Act Senate Passage on Fox NewsAmerica Reports | Fox News | January 30, 2024 Reps. Lawler and Moskowitz urge SHIP Act Senate Passage on MSNBC Andrea Mitchell Reports | MSNBC | January 30, 2024 If you have any questions about any of the above information, or if there is anything we can do for you or your family, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 845-201-2060 or reach out through my website at lawler.house.gov. Additionally, you can keep up with the latest news on my efforts by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram - and by opting in to periodic updates from my office by [CLICKING HERE](#). Sincerely, Michael V. LawlerMember of Congress17th District, New York [Click Here to view this email in your browser](#) [Click Here to be removed from this list](#)