

## RESOLUTION NO. 270

### CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE FUNDING FOR MASS TRANSIT EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS AND TO SUBSIDIZE FUEL COSTS FOR MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS

Introduced: 7/14/08

By Messrs. Domalewicz, Morse and McCoy:

WHEREAS, The price of gas is over \$4.00 a gallon and is expected to continue to rise, placing a hardship on both residents and mass transit operators, and

WHEREAS, According to U.S. government figures, the retail cost of diesel fuel is over \$2.00 higher per gallon than it was a year ago and according to Capital District Transportation Authority statistics for the first quarter of 2008, mass transit ridership was up 618,803 riders, an increase of 14% from the first quarter of 2007, resulting in overcrowding the already taxed system for daily commuters, and

WHEREAS, As the demand for public transit is increasing with the rise of fuel costs, an enormous strain is put on the rail transit systems which are in desperate need of upgrades, expansions and operating funds, and

WHEREAS, Public transportation reduces congestion, the nation's dependency on foreign oil and cuts carbon emissions, and

WHEREAS, Investment in mass transit is a valuable investment that will stimulate immediate industrial job growth, and

WHEREAS, The Capital District Transportation Authority has not increased fares since April 1995 and if ridership continues to increase because of high fuel costs, it is inevitable that CDTA will feel pressure to increase fares in order to meet the demand, and

WHEREAS, By reason of the aforementioned facts, mass transit services should be increased and subsidies for those services should be provided, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature of the State of New York calls upon the United States Congress to provide immediate funding for mass transit expansion and improvements of light rail, bus and subway systems and to provide immediate fuel subsidies for all mass transit operators to maintain or reduce current fares to entice more people into mass transit, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to New York's Congressional delegation and the appropriate County Officials.

*Resolution was withdrawn by sponsors. 7/14/08*