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# Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council

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TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN



**For immediate release:** June 21, 2012

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## **Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council, Vision Long Island, and Tri-State Transportation Campaign Call for A6175-B to Be Sent to Assembly Floor**

*Parking and Transit Pre-Tax Benefit Equity Is at Stake*

Our groups are profoundly disappointed in the failure of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee to release Assembly Bill 6175-B and call upon the Assembly Ways and Means Committee to immediately release this legislation for action on the Assembly floor. This legislation is needed to restore parity between the maximum pretax benefit permitted for parking and for transit. Currently, the maximum parking benefit stands at \$240, while the maximum transit benefit is \$125. A “same as” bill, S2728-C, has been approved by the Senate, allowing these important benefits to be promptly restored to commuters.

We believe that supporting commuters who make the responsible choice of using transit to commute to work is extremely important, and this bill strongly underscores our state’s policy of promoting and encouraging transit use. This legislation is critical to ensure that transit commuters receive New York State tax benefits that are on par with the tax code’s treatment of commuter parking benefits. Efforts to restore this higher maximum benefit at the federal level

face an uncertain future as they are tied to the passage of a long-term transportation bill, heightening the importance of enacting this provision on the state level.