



## from Senator Nick Spano

Room 509  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, N.Y. 12247  
(518) 455-2231

1 Executive Boulevard  
Yonkers, N.Y. 10701  
(914) 969-5194  
Internet Address:  
Spano@Senate.State.NY.US

October 12, 2005

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Claire Wainwright 914.969.5194

### **SENATOR SPANO JOINS WITH STATE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS URGING PASSAGE OF TRANSPORTATION BOND ACT ON NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Senator Nick Spano (R,C,1 – Westchester) today joined with New York State labor leaders at the Hartsdale Metro North Train Station to urge voters to vote "yes" for the Transportation Bond Act that will be put before them this Election Day, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Senator Spano was joined at the event by: Dean Devita, General Chairman and President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU); National Conference of Firemen and Oilers; Chris Silvera, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT); Pete McMahon, Transit Workers Union (TWU); Norman Brown, International Association of Machinists (IAM); Billy Mills and John Dmytryszyn, American Railway Supervisors Association (ARSA); Steve Malone, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW); Paul Korcz and Brian McNamara, Sheet Metal Workers International Association (SMWIA); Stan Donicyan, IBEW-S; and, Victor Nieto, Transportation Communications International Union (TCU).

The \$2.0 billion Transportation Bond Act was proposed by Governor Pataki and state legislature. The funds will be divided equally between the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT), and will fund a variety of programs across the State of New York including the Second Avenue Subway in New York City and major highway rehabilitation across the State. The funding will also be used to purchase vital equipment like new buses and subway and commuter rail cars, maintaining the infrastructure of the system to ensure the safety and reliability of service.

Senator Nick Spano said, "I am proud to stand here today with my friends in organized labor to urge that voters across the State of New York vote 'yes' on November 8<sup>th</sup> and approve the Transportation Bond Act. This money will go directly towards improvements across our transportation system, and will also provide funding to ensure that the jobs are done in a timely and safe fashion."

~~-more-~~

-2-

Dean Devita, General Chairman and President of the Firemen & Oilers, and secretary of the Metro North Labor Coalition, declared, "the union workers who make Metro North run have an interest not only in good wages and benefits but in an efficient, safe, well-maintained commuter rail system. We want the best possible service to the riding public. We are that public. We not only work here, we make up the communities that Metro North serves. The passage of the Transportation Bond Act can only benefit the workers we represent."

In addition, funds will also be used to improve service to riders through the purchase of new subway cars, rail cars, and clean-fuel buses and through infrastructure improvements that include new track, improved tunnel lighting, increased parking at suburban rail stations, and real-time customer communications that provide information about train arrivals.

In August 2005, the New York State AFL-CIO's Executive Board announced its endorsement of the \$2.9 Billion Transportation Bond Act. The State Labor Federation's Executive Board voted unanimously to approve labor's support. It should be noted that in all Bond Act initiatives that the New York State AFL-CIO has actively supported since 1978, the Bond Act prevailed. Of those which the State Federation did not support, all failed at the polls. Today's event was one of many statewide grassroots initiatives that organized labor is conducting to urge the passage of the Bond Act.

###