



GNJMA

The Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association

September 24, 2021

Kathryn Wylde, President
Partnership for NYC
One Battery Park Plaza, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Dear Ms. Wylde:

The Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association represents bus operators and owners on matters of collective interest in state of New Jersey and the surrounding region. This includes New York City (NYC). The association works in cooperation with industry associations, local, state, and federal agencies, legislators, vendors, attractions, destinations, and other entities to promote the betterment and welfare of our industry, members, and association objectives.

We are writing to you today to share our deep concern about your recent comments related to the stoppage of tour buses in NYC. You are quoted as saying *“We should re-dedicate Street space in New York City to new uses. I think it’s time to stop the tour bus traffic. I’d like to put that on the list of things to get rid of.”*

As the president of the Partnership for NYC, we would like to start a conversation with you, in hopes of educating you on the value of “tour buses” to NYC:

First, motorcoaches are the greenest form of mass transportation, public or private. To this point, I welcome you to review the facts for yourself on environmental impact from our friends at the American Bus Association: <https://www.buses.org/aba-foundation/research-summary/environment>.

We are very involved in conversations with Port Authority on parking, tolling and on issues relating to congestion, including congestion pricing. Please note, our buses eliminate 50 cars per bus, given the capacity. I have included a photo for you after my signature, as we believe a picture is worth a thousand words.

Second, the revenue our industry brings to NYC’s tourism, and your overall economic landscape, is enormous. Overall annual sales in NYC coming from motorcoach tourists totaled \$4.15 billion. Motorcoach operators, hotels, entertainment venues, restaurants and retailers who serve these travelers, along with the companies that supply services and materials to them, provide well-paying jobs in New York and pay significant taxes to state and local governments.

Extracted from the analysis I have included as an attachment, we estimate that New York serves a total of 6,037,083 motorcoach group tourist equivalent people on day trips, and an additional 1,548,153 on overnight stays, for a total of 7,585,236 group tour visitors. It is estimated that approximately 216,721 equivalent motorcoaches visited New York. Hotels in New York provide group motorcoach tourists with an estimated 3,187,195 room nights annually.

Wondering what the effect of each motorcoach visiting NYC is?

- Approximately 35 equivalent visitors, of which 80 percent were on day trips and 20 on overnight visits.
- Approximately \$19,145 in local sales.
- Approximately 14.71 room nights (double occupancy).
- For every 4.96 motorcoaches operating, 1 job is created in the community.
- Companies in New York that provide motorcoach services to tourists employ as many as 3,016 people. In addition, companies that supply services to motorcoach passengers, such as hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues, employ as many as 40,637 people in the community. These are good paying job which average of \$43,907 in wages and benefits.

I welcome a conversation with you to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Cowley
Executive Director



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