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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3203
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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEARING

Hon. Elliot G. Sandler
Executive Director & CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Lee,

I must express my strong disapproval of the MTA's decision to allow the Islamic Circle of North America to display advertisements in 1,000 MTA subway cars beginning in September.

My opposition to these ads has nothing whatever to do with their religious content but with those people who are promoting them, particularly Siraj Wahhaj, the radical Imam who was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in an Islamic terror plot to destroy New York City landmarks and who testified as a character witness for the notorious "blind Sheik" Omar Abdel-Rahman. Abdel-Rahman is a convicted terrorist serving a life sentence without parole.

The MTA cannot allow its taxpayer funded subway cars to be used as vehicles to give credibility and respectability to the likes of Siraj Wahhaj. You have an obligation to pierce the veil of ICNA, an organization which associates with people such as Wahhaj. It is particularly offensive that these ads will appear at the time we will be commemorating the seventh anniversary of the murder of almost 3,000 innocent people on September 11, 2001 by Islamic terrorists in New York City. What an insult to the memory of those who were murdered that horrible day!

Based on the foregoing, I am calling upon the MTA to rescind its decision to allow the placement of these ads. This is not an issue of free speech. As you know, the MTA removed ads in 2004 which were found to be sexually offensive.

I await your decision.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress