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Sierra Club Disappointed by MBTA's Fare Hike and Calls for Greater Investment in Transit

On Monday, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Fiscal and Management Control Board approved an average 6% fare hike with some modifications. Subway fares will increase to \$2.40 from \$2.25 and commuter rail prices will vary across the region with the maximum 75 cents increase for one-way fares. Bus, youth and senior fares are exempted from the hike.

The T expects to raise about \$29.4 million and predicts a decrease in ridership by 1.2 percent. This is the fourth fare increase since 2012 and will take effect on July 1, 2019.

In response, Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter Director Deb Pasternak made the following statement:

"Sierra Club is disappointed that the MBTA's Fiscal and Management Control Board voted for a partial increase in fares. Affordable transit is an equity and environmental justice issue, hitting low-income riders hardest. At a time when Massachusetts is looking at ways to reduce transportation emissions, this fare increase will push more commuters to drive, contribute to declining ridership, increase congestion, and take us further away from our climate goals. The fare increases by itself will not provide the funding that is needed to improve service or achieve the vision outlined in the Governor's Commission on Future of Transportation report. We urge the state and T to identify other sources of revenue to maintain, improve and expand service."

About the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining

wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org.

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