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FEDERAL OFFICIAL CALLS
NYCTA BUS ACTION FISCALLY
IRRESPONSIBLE

Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Ralph L. Stanley today called New York City Transit Authority's (NYCTA) withdrawal of 851 Grumman Flexible buses from service on a permanent basis, "precipitous, premature and without any apparent notice provided to the federal government, Congress, or New York State which paid for these vehicles."

During a hearing before the House Public Works Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, Stanley discussed Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) actions following the abrupt and permanent service withdrawal of February 7. "Based upon information currently available to UMTA from our own inspection in New York, from our sampling of other grantees, and from the manufacturer, we simply cannot verify NYCTA's claims regarding the safety threat posed by these buses, much less find a basis for their permanent withdrawal from service," said Stanley. He added that, according to the manufacturer, the buses are still under warranty.

Under agreements with NYCTA granting \$73 million in federal funds for the buses, "not only must UMTA be notified before their removal from service but UMTA is entitled to reimbursement from NYCTA," stated Stanley. "It is extremely unfortunate that NYCTA's unilateral action excluded us from cooperating with New York to solve this problem, thereby creating even more problems."

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**Urban Mass
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