



NEWS

CONTACT: David Lerner 212-260-5000

**ARONOWITZ CONDEMNS BLOOMBERG'S PROPOSED
50 CENT HIKE IN TRANSIT FARES**

*Fare Increase Would Punish Working People Says
Green Party Gubernatorial Candidate*

New York, July 12, 2002 – Mayor Bloomberg's recent call for a 50-cent transit fare hike amounts to a wage cut for most New Yorkers said Stanley Aronowitz, the Green Party candidate for Governor. "Most New Yorkers use our buses and subways to get to and from work. Instead of putting the burden on riders, Bloomberg should close the budget gap by raising taxes on those best able to pay, that is, the wealthy individuals and large corporations who dominate our city's economy and political life," he said.

While Mayor Bloomberg has sought to blame the wage demands of the unions that represent MTA workers for the budget gap facing the transit authority, Aronowitz pointed out that while subways and buses carry 83 percent of New York State's mass-transit riders, the city gets only 62 percent of the state's mass transit funding. That disparity amounts to approximately \$275 million, which would go a long way towards offsetting the need for a fare hike. He urged Mayor Bloomberg, to pressure the Governor and the state for the mass transit funds New Yorkers deserve.

Stanley Aronowitz, sociology professor, labor activist, author and cultural critic, won the Green Party nomination for governor with over 70% of the vote at the party's convention in Ithaca on May 25. Aronowitz and the Greens offer New York voters a broad vision of radical democracy that combines opposition to corporate power and the plutocratic corruption of politics with commitment to a sustainable environment, racial equality, feminism, gay liberation, and individual freedom. Aronowitz plans an intensive grass roots campaign that will raise the serious economic, social and ecological issues facing the people of New York State—issues that the Democrats and Republicans have consistently failed to engage.

For more information on the Campaign visit: www.stanleyaronowitz.org. **To book an interview with the candidate, call David Lerner at (212) 260-5000.**