



BUILDING TRADES EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

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LOUIS J. COLETTI, PRESIDENT & CEO

To: Senator Ryan, Assemblymember Magnarelli

From: Building Trades Employers Association

Re: Memorandum in Opposition, Contractor Registration, Proposed Bill S.5994/A1338

The Buildings Trades Employer's Association represents over 1,500 construction trade contractors employing over 100,000 union workers, and, setting in place \$65 billion of work in New York City, would like to register our opposition of the proposed legislation on Contractor Registration.

Currently, contractors must submit this information to the NYS Comptroller's office VendRep system for public contracts. This system already maintains an efficient and effective way to determine contractor responsibility and the feasibility of that contractor to complete the work that it bids on. It was specifically created to fraud, waste and abuse by determining if the contractor is a responsible party. Should the Legislature feel that Vend Rep does not adequately achieve this, perhaps we must either fix or scrap that system before installing a completely duplicative model.

This bill unnecessarily duplicates this system by mandating that the NYS Department of Labor maintain a registration system for public projects. Creating duplicative systems in siloed government agencies never attain the goal they hope to achieve. In fact, more often than not, this waste and ineffectiveness does not protect against failed contracts or non-responsible contractors.

If the goal is a tracking of prevailing wage issues, the Comptroller's office is better equipped to match those findings against it's database of contractors which is already in place. We believe that compliance with Labor Law 8 is currently being addressed effectively by VendRep, and find no compelling reason to create an additional registration.

For these reasons, as well as the financial costs placed on contractors at a time when they already face steep material and product costs, the BTEA adamantly opposes this bill.