



Memorandum of Opposition
S.6761A/A.9064

The Empire State Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), which represents hundreds of merit shop contractors and subcontractors, employing hundreds of thousands of workers throughout the state of New York, opposes S.6761/A.9064.

If passed, this bill will create a licensing requirement for individuals working on fire suppression systems. ABC has supported New York State licensing legislation in the past. Notably, we strongly supported the recently passed elevator licensing bill. Unlike this bill, the elevator licensing bill was supported by the industry because it:

- Created a fair standard for all employers
- Allowed for grandfathering for qualified individuals with proven work experience
- Allowed for the adoption of proper curriculums

S.6761/A.9064 fails to accomplish any of these things. It only allows for grandfathering for individuals who have already graduated from a related apprenticeship program which leaves the majority of sprinkler fitters unable to be grandfathered in. These individuals will be forced to go through an extensive five-year apprenticeship training program even though many of them have the required 10,000 hours of on-the-job experience that is outlined by the New York State Department of Labor's Sprinkler Fitter Program.

Another significant problem with this legislation is that if enacted, it would create a board that will have full control of the industry. Based on the criteria for those who can be on this board, it doesn't include enough industry expertise to adequately oversee the creation of a license, testing exam, or a renewal process.

As previously stated, ABC has supported licensing bills in the past and we do currently support a licensing bill that was introduced this year, S.5804A/ A.7510A sponsored by Senator Breslin and Assemblymember Fahy. This bill is much better for the industry and has support from other key groups in the fire sprinkler business.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you oppose this bill and instead support S.5804A/ A.7510A.

If you have questions, please reach out to our Public Affairs Manager, Tanner Schmidt, at (585) 730-1814 or tschmidt@abcnys.org