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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR S.5684/A.2595

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The New York State Pipe Trades Association, representing 30,000 members who perform plumbing, steam-fitting, HVAC and fire protection installation throughout the sixty-two counties of our state, from Niagara Falls to Montauk, strongly supports S.5684/A.2595, sponsored by Senator Savino and Assemblyman Brindisi, which would protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and general welfare by providing for the establishment of minimum standards for licensure of water-based fire protection system installation and inspecting.

Local 669 of the United Association of Plumbers, Fitters, Welders, and Service Techs represents sprinkler fitters across the United States. To become a Journeyman fitter in the UA, one has to have completed over 10,000 hours on the job.

Unfortunately, New York does not have a licensing requirement for Sprinkler Fitters. Anyone today can claim to be a Sprinkler Fitter, and work on fire suppression systems.

The public needs to know who is trained to do this vital work; those who masquerade as trained Sprinkler Fitters can build unsafe fire suppression systems that can, in turn, lead to increased property damage and death.

When a fire suppression system is deployed, it is critical that it not fail. New Yorkers need to know that the workers who build these systems are highly trained professionals. This legislation will ensure that fire suppression systems built in our state will perform exactly as necessary.

For these reasons, the New York State Pipe Trades Association urges you to pass this legislation.

NEW YORK STATE PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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