



National Headquarters:
514 Progress Drive, Suite A
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
845-878-4200
nfsa.org

June 17, 2017

SUPPORT S.5684/A.2595 the “NY State Water Based Fire Protection Act”

Dear Senator and Assemblyman of New York State,

Please accept this letter as encouragement for your consideration in support of the New York State Water Based Fire Protection Act. Consistent with the mission of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, *“To protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept”*, the Act will enhance fire and life safety and the reliability of fire sprinkler systems within the State of New York. As a former volunteer and career firefighter, the latest volunteer service being in Dutchess County, New York, I recognize the importance of properly installed and maintained water-based fire protection systems. I am very grateful for your consideration and would appreciate your support.

This Act is intended to 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 contractors, certification of responsible managing employees and fire suppression specialists. It will establish justifiable penalties for improper layout, installing, servicing, or repairing fire protection systems and prohibit unlicensed activities. The improper installation and repair of fire protection systems adversely affects the public health, safety and general welfare of New Yorkers and their guests. In addition, it costs the State of New York millions of dollars in tax revenue resulting from interruption of business activity and damage to property. It is widely acknowledged that fire protection systems are critical life and property safety systems that require specialized knowledge and experience for proper installation.

The NFSA has many New York contractor members in New York state. In addition to the fire sprinkler fitters employed in the state, there are approximately six hundred management and office staff working in New York State based fire sprinkler contractors’ offices and branch offices, plus hundreds more in allied suppliers’ and vendors’ corporations.

Sincerely,

Shane Ray, President