

April 3, 2025

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Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins 188 State Street LOB, Room 907 Albany, NY 12247 Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie 188 State Street LOB, Room 932 Albany, NY 12247

Subject: Letter of Support for NYS Senate Bill S2536 and Assembly Bill A2747 - Prevailing Wage for Offsite Construction

Dear Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie,

On behalf of the Association of Contracting Plumbers of the City of New York (ACP), an organization with a proud history dating back to 1881, representing unionized plumbing contractors who have exclusively performed work within New York City for over 140 years, we are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill S2536 and its companion Assembly Bill A2747, which would ensure the application of prevailing wage standards to offsite construction projects intended for use on public works.

As a unionized trade association deeply rooted in the fabric of New York City's construction industry, we understand firsthand the importance of fair wages and benefits in maintaining a skilled and safe workforce. Prevailing wage laws are crucial in ensuring that public projects are built with quality craftsmanship and by workers who are compensated fairly for their expertise. This not only benefits the workers and their families, many of whom are our neighbors in this city, but also ensures a level playing field for responsible contractors like our members, who invest in their employees and adhere to high standards.

Senate Bill S2536 and Assembly Bill A2747 are vital pieces of legislation that address a critical gap in the current prevailing wage framework. By extending prevailing wage requirements to offsite manufacturing and fabrication that is specifically intended for incorporation into public works projects, these bills will prevent the erosion of labor standards and protect local jobs within our city and state. Without this crucial protection, there is a risk of public funds being used to support contractors who undercut wages and potentially compromise the quality and safety of the final project — a risk that directly impacts the integrity of the infrastructure we rely on in New York City.

The Association of Contracting Plumbers of the City of New York believes that all workers contributing to public projects, regardless of whether their work is performed onsite or offsite, deserve to be compensated fairly. Applying prevailing wage to offsite construction will:

- Ensure Fair Wages and Benefits: Protect workers from exploitation and maintain living wages and benefits that support families and communities within New York City and across the state.
- **Promote Quality and Safety:** Encourage contractors to invest in skilled labor and prioritize safety on all aspects of the project, both onsite and offsite, leading to more reliable and durable public infrastructure.
- Support Local Economies: Keep public funds within the state and support local businesses and workers, including the skilled tradespeople who are the backbone of our industry in New York City.
- Level the Playing Field: Prevent unfair competition from contractors who seek to lower labor costs at the expense of quality and worker well-being, ensuring that responsible New York City contractors can continue to compete for public work.

Given our long history and deep commitment to quality construction and fair labor practices within New York City, we strongly urge you and your colleagues in the Senate and Assembly to recognize the importance of S2536 and A2747 and to prioritize their passage. This legislation is a necessary step to ensure fairness, quality, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars in public construction projects, directly benefiting the workers and communities of New York City and the entire state.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this critical matter. We are available to discuss this further and provide any additional information you may require.

Sincerely,

Terence O'Brien

**Executive Vice President** 





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Terence O'Brien
Executive Vice
President

The Honorable Kathy Hochul Governor of New York State NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of the Association of Contracting Plumbers City of New York (ACP), representing unionized plumbing contractors, in the City since 1881, I express our strong support for the proposed expansion of Section 224-A of the Labor Law within the 2026 budget to include certain private projects receiving government subsidies.

For over 140 years, our association has been committed to upholding the highest standards of safety, quality, and fair labor practices in the plumbing industry. We recognize that the proper enforcement of prevailing wage and benefit standards is crucial for protecting workers, ensuring a level playing field for responsible contractors, and maintaining the integrity of construction projects, regardless of whether they are public or receive public funding.

The proposed expansion of Section 224-A to private projects receiving government subsidies is vital for several key reasons. By strengthening enforcement mechanisms on these projects, this expansion will ensure that workers receive the wages and benefits they rightfully deserve, preventing exploitation and unfair competition in a sector increasingly reliant on public support. This change would further solidify New York State's position as a leader in the unionized labor movement, ensuring that the dedicated individuals who construct infrastructure, even on privately owned projects benefiting from taxpayer dollars, are fairly compensated for their vital work. Responsible contractors, who invest in skilled labor and adhere to prevailing wage standards, are often undercut by those who do not. The expansion of 224-A will help to create a more equitable bidding environment across a broader range of projects. Properly compensated and skilled workers are essential for delivering high-quality, safe infrastructure projects, and extending these protections to subsidized private work will contribute to the overall quality and longevity of these developments. Furthermore, prevailing wage laws support local economies by ensuring that workers on these publicly supported projects have fair wages to spend within their communities.

We understand the importance of fiscal responsibility, and we believe that ensuring fair labor standards on projects benefiting from government subsidies is a responsible use of taxpayer funds, preventing a race to the bottom in wages and ensuring quality outcomes.

The ACP strongly urges you to include the proposed expansion of Section 224-A of the Labor Law to private projects receiving government subsidies in the final 2026 budget. We are confident that this measure will have a significant positive impact on workers, contractors, and the overall quality of construction projects in New York State an New York City alike.

Thank you for considering this expansion of the Labor Law for betterment of unionized contractors and our labor forces.

Sincerely,

Terence O'Brien

**Executive Vice President** 

CC: NYS Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins NYS Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie