

Dear Assembly Member \_\_\_\_\_:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a code enforcement official (*or fire marshal, fire chief, firefighter*) in the town/village of \_\_\_\_\_. I am writing to urge your support of **A.10840** sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph Morelle.

The passage of this legislation is critical as it would provide much needed funding for local governments for the enforcement of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. Prior to 1992, a surcharge was collected on all fire insurance policies to reimburse local governments for code enforcement expenses. The justification for this surcharge was based upon the principal that proper code enforcement directly impacts life safety and property loss. In 1992, these funds were diverted to the General Fund and state assistance under this program for local code enforcement activities ceased. New York State recently experienced the historic adoption of new building, fire prevention, energy and plumbing codes, known as the International Codes. It is imperative that funding be available to ensure that these codes stay current and allow for new methods, regulations and materials. Additionally, Part 1203 of Title 19 NYCRR, requires annual inspections for all areas of public assemblies and some commercial buildings in addition to the regulations currently requiring 24 hours of in-service training. The resources provided in this legislation will assist local governments to comply with these requirements as well as ensuring proper code enforcement to protect the citizens of the State of New York while improving efficiency and safety.

Additionally, several organizations are also in support of this important legislation. Supporters include: The New York State Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association, The New York State Building Officials Conference (NYSBOC), The Fireman's Association of New York (FASNY), The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, The New York State Fire Districts, The New York State Association of Towns and The New York Conference of Mayors

I am asking that you urge Chairman Joseph Morelle to place this bill on the next Insurance Committee agenda and that it go directly to the Assembly Floor for passage in this Legislative Session. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this important legislation at your convenience. I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,