



May 31, 2022

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

RE: Opposition to S.8648 (Ramos)/A.9598 (Joyner)

Dear Governor Hochul:

On behalf of the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, a business membership organization consisting of nearly 800 members, we would like to voice our opposition to S.8648 (Ramos)/A.9598 (Joyner). This legislation redefines the term "covered renewable energy system" by lowering the threshold of covered renewable energy systems from 5 megawatts to 1 or more megawatts and will subject nearly 1,000 projects in New York State to prevailing wage.

In January of 2022, prevailing wage was extended to projects that receive public incentives of more than 30 percent of construction costs and where overall costs exceed \$5 million. Under current law, prevailing wage already disincentivizes small Upstate contractors from bidding on projects due to elevated wages and onerous regulations. Extending the number of projects that fall under this category will only deter more projects from occurring and increase costs without offsetting efficiencies.

With inflation just over 8%, supply chain issues sweeping the construction industry, and the cost of transportation at an all-time high, we cannot unnecessarily impose any more burdens on the business community. In truth, the legislature should join the other 24 states who do not have prevailing wage laws and consider a repealer rather than an extension. For these reasons, we would request that you veto this legislation.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me at sduncan@greaterbinghamtonchamber.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Duncan".

Stacey Duncan
President & CEO

cc: Senator Frederick J. Akshar, II
Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo
Assemblyman Joseph Angelino

**WE'RE HERE
TO BUILD A
GREATER
BINGHAMTON**

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