



July 13, 2022

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

RE: Opposition to S.5994-C (Ryan)/A.1338-C (Magnarelli)

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.5994-C (Ryan)/A.1338-C (Magnarelli). This legislation would require covered project contractors and subcontractors to register with the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL), pay a registration fee, and undergo a substantial prequalification review process to determine if they have a history of labor law violations prior to allowing them to bid on public work or covered contracts.

The Chamber does not disagree that background checks are essential to promote transparency and prevent bad actors from receiving contracts, however, this legislation is redundant as the state already has a mechanism in place to prevent this type of misconduct from occurring. The VendRep System is an application program administered by the New York State Comptroller's Office (NYSOSC) and was designed to make vendor responsibility determinations through a standardized database. This program is highly efficient, cost-effective, and secure; therefore, we see no need to replace it with a duplicative unfunded mandate.

Our membership is concerned that a new registration process like this will overwhelm an already overburdened state agency, thus creating backlog and slowing the bidding process for contractors ultimately resulting in workforce shortages. As we know too well, taxpayers will inevitably foot the bill as the NYSDOL will require full-time staff, various administrative costs, and software needed to maintain a large volume of information. For these reasons we would request that you support our business owners and New York State taxpayers by vetoing 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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