



Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists' Association

May 1, 2001

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

S.2383 Senator Marcellino/A5262 Assemblyman Englebright

Licensure of Geologists

On behalf of the Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists' Association (HMPGA), representing geologists in the Capital District, Catskills and northern Hudson Valley, this memorandum is submitted in support of the above referenced bills.

This legislation provides for the licensure of the profession of Geology, paralleling similar laws enacted by twenty-seven states across the nation. Licensure is appropriate for those professions that serve to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public. Geologists routinely make decisions and offer opinions that effect these matters of public interest and this role is of sufficient importance to warrant licensure.

Professional licensure will ensure positive legal responsibility and accountability to the public in geological matters, where such responsibility does not currently exist. Geologists, in the public interest, solve problems relating to land use and management such as solid waste disposal, ground-water protection, contaminant investigations, sea-level rise, potable water supply development, public works projects and numerous others. Geologists evaluate natural resources like mineral deposits and hydrocarbons, and natural hazards like earthquakes, landslides and subsidence, erosion, and flooding, all of which have documented occurrence in New York State and have financial impacts of tens of millions of dollars. Licensure provides a particularly important consumer protection for a regulatory- or service-driven industry where there may be few tangible factors to evaluate.

For the reasons cited above, HMPGA recommends that this legislation be favorably considered.

Respectfully submitted,

William Kelly
President