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New York State Geological Survey

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

S.2383 Senator Marcellino/A5262 Assemblyman Englebright

Licensure of Geologists

On behalf of the New York State Geological Survey, the oldest, continuously operating geological survey in the United States and the Office of the State Geologist, this memorandum is submitted in support of the above referenced bills.

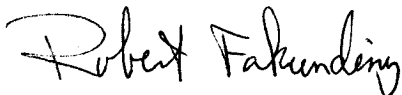
This legislation provides for licensing the profession of Geology and parallels similar laws enacted by more than half of the states across the nation. Licensure should be reserved for those professions that serve to protect the public safety, health, and welfare. Geologists routinely make decisions and offer opinions that effect these matters of public interest and this role is of sufficient importance that licensure is warranted.

Professional licensure ensures a positive legal responsibility and accountability to the public in matters that involve geology. Further, licensure assures the governor, state legislature and state and local agencies that highly qualified geologists are available to work in the state and that, in the public interest, decisions regarding geologic issues will be made by an appropriately qualified professional.

The public looks to geologists to solve problems relating to land use and management such as solid waste disposal, ground-water protection, contaminant investigations (*e.g.* Superfund sites), sea-level rise, potable water supply development, and public works projects to name just a few. Licensure provides a particularly important consumer protection for a regulatory- or service-driven industry where there may be few tangible factors to evaluate. Geologists evaluate natural resources such as oil and gas, 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. Professional licensure is a credential by which New York State and the public can recognize professional geologists who have the capabilities to make such evaluations.

For the foregoing reasons, I recommend that this legislation receive favorable consideration

Respectfully submitted,



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New York State Geologist
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