



New York State
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Road
P.O. Box 12414
Albany, NY 12212-2414

(518) 785-1900

(800) 342-4306

Fax (518) 785-1814

OFFICERS:

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Arlea Gabe Igoe
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January 14, 2008

Honorable Peter F. Vallone, Jr., Chairperson
Public Safety Committee
The New York City Council
250 Broadway, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10007

VIA E-MAIL

Re: Intro 650-A

Dear Councilmember Vallone:

On behalf of The New York State Public Employees Federation, AFL-CIO, (PEF) which represents 58,000 state employees in the Professional, Scientific and Technical bargaining unit, I write in opposition to Intro 650-A. Legislation to require "Permits for Atmospheric, Biological, Chemical, and Radiological Detectors" would negatively impact union efforts to ensure the health and safety of our members who live and/or work in New York City.

The right of state public employee unions to inspect and evaluate the working conditions of its bargaining unit members has been reaffirmed by the New York State Public Employee Relations Board in numerous cases. This right has also been recognized by memorandum by the New York State Governor's Office of Employee Relations.

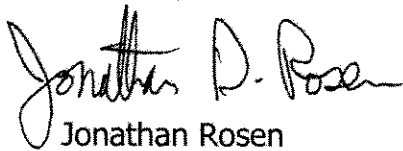
Intro 650-A, will have the negative consequence of inhibiting union and employers from making a prompt response to building related complaints. Examples of common building related health complaints include concerns regarding contaminated air, inadequate ventilation, asbestos, mold, construction dust, or carbon monoxide. PEF routinely works in collaboration with state agencies that employ our members to deploy industrial hygienists and other experts to respond to building related health complaints. We also have several industrial hygienists on staff who use environmental monitoring equipment to evaluate indoor health complaints.



Occasionally, the State and PEF have employed experts who live out of state to conduct health assessments during emergencies, including 9/11. Requiring them to go through a permitting process would delay their ability to provide a quick assessment of contaminants. Such a delay is unacceptable. We can provide examples of reports that have been generated in the New York City area where environmental monitoring equipment was used to evaluate building related health complaints upon request.

It is for the above reasons that PEF opposes Intro 650-A and therefore urges you to withdraw this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan D. Rosen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jonathan Rosen
Director of Health and Safety

cc: Honorable Christine Quinn, Speaker
Members of the Public Safety Committee