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February 21, 2008

**New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health  
116 John Street, Room 604  
New York, NY 10038-3331**

Dear Mr. Shufro,

Thank you for your letter regarding Intro 650, which seeks to require a government issued permit for the possession and deployment of biological, chemical and radiological detectors. I agree with many of the issues you have raised in relation to the proposal, and wish to inform you that I will not be supporting the bill as it is currently drafted.

Right now there is very limited evidence to suggest that biological, chemical, and radiological detectors have set off 'false alarms or unwarranted anxiety'. Instead of resolving a problem, it appears that Intro 650 creates a bureaucratic hurdle that would hinder the ability to gather data within an efficient timeframe and, in turn, impede independent environmental studies by research groups.

I also understand your concerns over the immediate illegality of existing detectors. While some classes of detectors may be exempt from the proposed permit rules, recognized environmental experts in possession of nonexempt devices may face unwarranted penalties.

Again, thank you for contacting my office and sharing your input. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Legislative Director, Greg Geller, at (212)788-7366.

Sincerely,

Rosie Mendez  
Councilwoman

RM/GG