



**Statement of
The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York
Regarding Int. No. 1292 – Committee on Contracts**

April 27, 2017

Good morning Chair Rosenthal and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Angel Vazquez and I am a representative of ACEC New York. The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) is the voice of the professional engineering community, representing 280 member firms throughout New York State that collectively employ close to 24,000 people statewide, with a concentrated presence of firms located within the five boroughs of New York City. Of those 280 firms, 50 are MWBE firms certified by the Department of Small Business Services. Our members are involved in all aspects of engineering for the public sector. We plan and design the structural, mechanical, electrical, civil, environmental, plumbing, fire protection and technology systems for the city's infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and wastewater treatment facilities, as well as public buildings. Our members are also involved in a host of planning, resiliency and environmental issues.

As an association representing the firms that design the infrastructure systems in New York and throughout the world, we know that implementing solutions to improve the way the City does business is necessary to its long term growth and success. ACEC New York and our member firms are ready and able to help New York accomplish this.

ACEC New York supports Int. No. 1292 in concept. Electronic voucher and invoicing would be a significant improvement over the current system and would allow for timelier processing for entities doing business with the City. As it currently stands, the City's constant delays in processing change orders, payments and closing out projects create cash flow and other issues for our members – particularly small-to-medium size firms, including MWBEs. In addition to reducing paper waste, a laudable goal for the city, it would bring the City in line with the current Federal Government practice of Wide Area Workflow, which functions to improve procurement and contracting by providing more transparency and efficient payment and accountability.

ACEC has several recommendations to streamline the overall procurement process that include; expediting registration of task orders and payments for on-call contracts, adopting NYSDOT's Consultant Out-of-Scope Work request methodology for change orders, eliminating salary caps on all personnel, processing partial payments on invoices, among other recommendations. Electronic invoicing is an important part of our procurement agenda, therefore we appreciate the Members of the Council addressing this important issue.