

**Statement by the
American Council of Engineering Companies of New York
and the
American Institute of Architects New York**

OPPOSITION to Intro 1307-A

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) and the American Institute of Architects New York (AIANY) appreciate the opportunity to share these comments with you regarding amended bill, Intro. 1307-A, in relation to the qualifications of Department of Buildings inspectors.

The amended bill requires all inspectors to have a minimum level of qualifications. We recognize and appreciate that setting this “qualifications floor” is an improvement over the original version of the bill, which would have altogether eliminated Code-required qualifications for inspectors. Inspectors are essential to ensuring construction is performed in a safe and Code compliant manner and thus require qualifications. The amendments made to the bill are a step in the right direction.

However, in the amended bill, it is unclear what criteria or rationale was used to determine that only “work on gas piping systems, [and] electrical work” require highly-qualified inspectors. We believe that if the City Council and Department of Buildings engaged professional engineers and architects to identify other types of work that require highly-qualified inspectors, this list would likely be expanded beyond just gas piping and electrical work (eg. the term “gas piping systems” could be broadened to “plumbing work”). For these reasons and others, we must oppose the amended bill. At a time when the City has made it a priority to improve construction safety, Intro. 1307-A would be a step in the wrong direction.

We ask the Council to defer this version of the bill and to not vote on it until the City Council and Department of Buildings, working with professional engineers and architects, have had a chance to adequately strengthen qualifications set by the bill. In its current form, we cannot support this legislation.

ACEC New York and AIANY have been pleased, over the years, to engage in and support City Council and Department of Buildings initiatives. We are always happy to partner with our colleagues in government. We once again offer to provide our resources and expertise to you.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment.