



*American Council of Engineering Companies of New York*

June 10, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**Re: Opposition to bill A.1396/S.4773 “State Hiring Freeze-Consultant Prohibition”**

Dear Governor Hochul:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York), an organization representing some 300 member firms totaling more than 33,000 of their employees, writes to express our **strong opposition to bill A.1396/S.4773 and respectfully request a veto.**

If enacted, this bill has the potential to create an untenable situation during periods of fiscal uncertainty, which in practice, would exacerbate challenges to the State economy. More importantly, the bill would severely limit the ability of the Executive branch to advance capital projects and protect the public.

As a matter of policy, the Legislature should not be creating arbitrary statutory triggers that constrain an executive agency’s ability to fulfill their mission on behalf of taxpayers and users of our State’s infrastructure. Professional engineers are licensed to safeguard the life, safety, and property of the general public, and the design, construction, maintenance, and inspection of our critical infrastructure must always proceed unhindered under all circumstances.

This bill passed both houses without any debate, even though the bill is extraordinarily vague, provides no exemptions for emergency situations, and is silent on whether the bill applies to consultants performing critical work to advance capital projects and protect the public. ACEC New York appreciates the efforts of public employee unions to protect the future of public service and bolster the ranks of highly-educated public servants—employees who usually receive their training and experience in the private sector. However, this legislation does not represent a meaningful or responsible path to securing their goals or upholding their values.

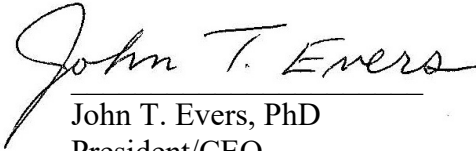
ACEC New York members understand the immense value of fully staffed agencies and a professionalized State workforce. Problems with recruitment, retirement and attrition continue to contribute to delays in plan review, permitting, and other government functions necessary to move capital plans forward, maintain our critical infrastructure, and keep New Yorkers safe. Consulting engineering firms seek to promote cooperation with public agencies—not competition.

# ACEC New York

*American Council of Engineering Companies of New York*

For the reasons stated above, ACEC New York opposes bill A.1396/S.4773, and requests a veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Evers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

John T. Evers, PhD  
President/CEO  
ACEC New York