For Immediate Release: July 28, 2025

Contact: William Acker, Executive Director, NY-BEST: acker@ny-best.org

NEW YORK ADOPTS NATION-LEADING BATTERY STORAGE SAFETY CODES

NY-BEST Applauds State Code Council for Ensuring Critical Grid Infrastructure Can Advance Safely

Albany, NY – On Friday, the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council adopted updated Codes that set a national benchmark for battery energy storage system safety. The unanimous vote to amend the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code is a culmination of years of effort by the State, in collaboration with key stakeholders like NY-BEST, to ensure that New York continues to lead in safely integrating this essential grid infrastructure. The amendments enhance battery storage safety requirements in New York, reflecting the latest data, field experience, and recommendations of the Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group.

Battery storage is a critical tool for modernizing the electric grid. Battery storage systems improve reliability, manage peak demand, and support affordable power delivery, especially during periods of stress. The new Codes, informed by technical experts and public safety officials, reflect the latest standards, field experience, and engineering data, ensuring robust protections for communities and first responders alike.

New safety provisions include independent engineering peer review, continuous 24/7 monitoring for early fault detection, and robust emergency response planning in coordination with local fire departments. These requirements build upon existing national standards, such as NFPA 855, and create one of the strongest regulatory foundations for battery storage in the country.

Following the Council's action, six leading fire safety experts from across the state released a joint declaration endorsing the safety of battery energy storage systems when installed and operated under New York's updated framework. The declaration encourages communities and

local officials to evaluate battery storage projects based on facts, data, and professional expertise.

“With these updates, New York is reaffirming its commitment to public safety while laying the groundwork for a more reliable and resilient grid,” said William Acker, Executive Director of NY-BEST. “Battery storage is a core component of a 21st-century electric system, and these codes should give New Yorkers confidence that it’s being deployed with the highest safety standards.”

The New York Battery and Energy Storage Technology Consortium (NY-BEST) is a not-for-profit industry trade association with a mission to grow the energy storage industry in New York. We act as a voice of the energy storage industry for more than 175 member organizations on matters related to advanced batteries and energy storage technologies.