



ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

May 31, 2006

Honorable George Maziarz
New York State Senate
LOB Room 915
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Maziarz:

OPPOSITION TO S.7088

Although Associated Builders and Contractors actively promote apprenticeship training, ABC opposes passage of S.7088.

ABC stands committed to apprenticeship and craft training for our 700 statewide members. ABC runs three construction training facilities throughout New York for our members and their employees and has open enrollment for “independent students”. ABC partners with regional BOCES facilities (see attachment) and local community colleges to deliver a nationally accredited construction training curriculum. Recently, the New York State Department of Corrections implemented this same training curriculum for its construction apprenticeship programs.

ABC and the National Construction Center for Education and Research (NCCER) have become the largest provider of related instruction for the construction industry in New York. In fact, there are approximately 1200 open shop apprenticeship sponsors in New York – more than the construction trade unions. These overwhelming numbers dictates representation.

Yet, there is a gapping hole in the Joint Apprenticeship Council where ABC and open shop contractors should be sitting. The open shop side of the industry is forced to implement archaic regulations by a council exclusively union – to paraphrase that is “implementation without representation.” The absence of representation on the New York State Joint Apprenticeship Council is why ABC opposes S.7088. Until ABC and the open shop contractors can have fair representation on the council we will oppose any similar legislation.

ABC is willing to work with the members of the senate to correct this under representation and can offer a list of qualified candidates to fill the openings on the Joint Apprenticeship Council.

Sincerely,

Scott Zylka

Government Affairs Director