

May 24, 2022

RE: Requiring Public Inspectors on Taxpayer Funded Construction Sites (S.7244/A.6664-A)

Dear Legislator:

As a taxpayer, a constituent and a member of the New York State Public Employees Federation, I urge you to pass legislation requiring a public inspector on the job site of all design-build projects funded with taxpayer dollars (S.7244 by Sen. Kennedy/A.6664-A by Asm. McDonald).

The recent revelations regarding the Governor Mario Cuomo Bridge are disturbing. This bridge cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion to construct and now there are concerns over potential cover-ups over faulty bolts and questions about the structural integrity of the bridge.

No taxpayer would pay \$3 billion to build a house and not step foot in the house until construction was completed. This is exactly what happened on this project and dozens of others. Taxpayers need and deserve to have someone on the job site representing their interests during the design, construction and inspection phases of all design-build construction projects. Public inspectors do not have outside influences like early completion bonuses, cost over-runs or profit margins to influence their decision-making.

This legislation is needed now. There are dozens of design-build projects underway across the state. I urge you to pass this legislation now so that all taxpayers can be confident in the quality and safety of the public works projects that their tax dollars fund.

Sincerely,