

June 27, 2017

Hon. Costa G. Constantinides, Chair
Committee on Environmental Protection
New York City Council
250 Broadway - Committee Rm, 14th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Re: Intro 1629; Intro 1637; Intro 1644; Intro 1651

On behalf of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architect (AIANY) and its over 5,500 architects and affiliate members, we submit our testimony on a series of energy-related bills: Intro 1629; Intro 1637; Intro 1644; Intro 1651.

AIANY aims to lead, inspire, and educate our members on design and sustainability in the built environment. We organize engaging programs that focus on outstanding green buildings, current technologies and product research, and sustainable design practices by leading architects from around the world. Our efforts are based on the belief that sustainability should be an essential part of the design process and be fully integrated with all aspects of a building.

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AIANY is partaking in a sustained push for initiatives that reduce carbon emissions in buildings and create healthy spaces for New Yorkers to live and work. To achieve the city's 80x50 goals, both public and private sectors must undergo largescale changes. We briefly outline our comments on today's bills as follows.

Intro 1629

In order for our buildings to be more efficient, we support Intro 1629, which would require that newly constructed or substantially retrofitted large buildings meet low-energy targets starting in 2025. In refining the bill, AIANY suggests that a prescriptive path as well as a performance path – that is, specific energy-saving actions that are measurable – be included in the language of the bill to assist and support the many buildings that do not use energy modeling. In addition, the Council should consider similar targets for a variety of buildings of different scales and uses beyond those covered by this bill.

With the increased need for hyper-efficient buildings, ongoing and expanding local training opportunities for professional architects, engineers and contractors is necessary. As part of our core mission, AIANY will continue our educational initiatives and are committed to working with the Council to ensure our highly trained professional community is ready to meet the challenges of implementation.

Intro 1637

Given the complexity and importance of energy issues in New York City, AIANY supports the creation of an Energy Policy Task Force as well as a long-term Energy Plan. In addition to the issues already listed in the bill, the task force and plan should examine how the city can better coordinate and interface with state and federal agencies in progressing towards its 80x50 goals.

Intro 1644

In order to deliver the needed carbon reductions in the city's built environment, AIANY supports the creation of a Green Project Accelerator. We suggest the definition of "green project" be expanded to cover not only buildings having all or part of its energy needs satisfied by energy generated onsite but also buildings that include hyper-efficient building design, including energy efficiency, water and resource conservation, as well as resiliency elements.



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Intro 1651

AIANY supports the real-time monitoring of energy usage and heat loss in city buildings, particularly considering Local Laws 31 and 32, which strengthen sustainability requirements to make city-owned buildings among the most efficient in the country. Monitoring building performance is a necessary step in dramatically reducing energy use as mandated by the Council.

In New York City, where buildings produce over 70% of carbon emissions, AIANY and our members offer our continued commitment to work with the Council, this administration and relevant stakeholders to achieve the city's goal of 80% carbon reductions by 2050. We are excited that NYC is taking the lead on dramatically reducing energy use in buildings and thinking holistically about our next steps.

Submitted on behalf of AIANY.

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