



May 19, 2022

Hon. James Gaughran, Chairman
NYS Senate Local Government Committee
LOB Room 848
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Steve Stern
NYS Assembly
LOB 919
Albany, NY 12248

Re: NYS S.1003C - Self Certification

Dear Chairman Gaughran & Assemblyman Stern:

On behalf of the Association for a Better Long Island, Long Island Association, Long Island Builders Institute, New York Solar Energy Industries Association and Commercial Industrial Brokers Society of Long Island, the leading advocates of the region's economic development and solar community, we write again in support of NYS S1003C bill, that would establish a self-certification program for building permit applications with local governments.

Self-certification programs will be instrumental in protecting our region's economic viability. In existence in New York City (since 1995), self-certification programs are used to make the permitting process more efficient for projects, save municipal resources and applicant time, as well as generate increased municipal revenue. As a result, the program spurs economic development by increasing investment in the municipality, creating jobs and economic activity. On Long Island, this bill narrows the scope of self certification by limiting it to only building permit applications that have not be approved or denied after 45 days. Furthermore, this bill ensures that all inspections, including electrical, fire, etc., still occur, as well as site plan reviews and certificates or occupancy, etc.

Several Long Island municipalities strongly support the establishment of self-certification programs. In fact, Suffolk County Supervisors Association, a bipartisan association, wrote a May 3, 2022 letter in support of the bill, as well as the Town of Hempstead in Nassau County. The Clean Energy Coalition also wrote a letter in support of the bill as well. Please find these letters attached.

This legislation makes government more efficient, creates additional jobs & municipal revenue, and spurs economic activity. Therefore, the **Association for a Better Long Island, Long Island Association, Long Island Builders Institute, New York Solar Energy Industries Association and Commercial Industrial Brokers Society of Long Island fully support NYS S1003C.**

Sincerely,

Kyle Strober, Executive Director, *Association for a Better Long Island*
Matthew Cohen, President & CEO, *Long Island Association*
Mitch Pally, CEO, *Long Island Builders Institute*
Zachary Dufresne, Executive Director, *NY Solar Energy Industries Association*
Daniel Weiner, President, *Commercial Industrial Brokers Society of Long Island*

cc: Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Majority Leader, NYS Senate
Hon. Carl Heastie, Speaker, NYS Assembly
NYS Senate LI Delegation
NYS Assembly LI Delegation

Suffolk County
Supervisors
Association

May 3, 2022

Hon. James Gaughran
NYS Senate
LOB Room 848
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Steve Stern
NYS Assembly
LOB 919
Albany, NY 12248

Re: NYS S.1003-A / AB.7947 - Self Certification

Dear Senator Gaughran and Assemblyman Stern:

On behalf of the Suffolk County Town Supervisors Association, we write in support of NYS S.1003-A & AB.7947 bills that would establish a self-certification program for building permit applications and construction documents filed with local governments.

Self-certification would streamline the approval process for municipalities by allowing municipal building departments to accept construction documents that have been professionally certified by an applicant who is a registered architect or professional engineer. This self-certification outlined in the legislation could potentially allow for a further streamlined construction process and faster turnaround time on new projects. As a result, the legislation would save time and resources for both the applicant and municipality, helping get new projects off the ground quickly, create new jobs and generate economic activity and additional revenue.

We are advised that there is an amendment being considered which would allow for a 30 day period in which the municipality would be able to respond either affirmatively or negatively to the application. We believe a 30 day period is a very reasonable time period for a response. Such time period should be appropriate regardless of whether such municipality has opted into the self-certification program as it is necessary for all permits to be judged quickly.

We hope that our support, along with the support of the Long Island Builders Institute, the Association for a Better Long Island and the Nassau/Suffolk Building Trades will allow both houses of the state legislature to understand the importance of providing such permits and creating new construction jobs on Long Island. We look forward to working with all of our stakeholders to implement such a program given state legislative authority.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

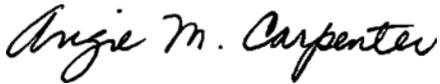
Suffolk County
Supervisors
Association



Rich Schaffer
Supervisor, Town of Babylon
Chair, Suffolk County Supervisors Association



Edmund J. Smyth
Supervisor, Town of Huntington



Angie Carpenter
Supervisor, Town of Islip



Edward R. Wehrheim
Supervisor, Town of Smithtown



Edward P. Romaine
Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven



Scott Russell
Supervisor, Town of Southold



Jay Schneiderman
Supervisor, Town of Southampton

DONALD X. CLAVIN, JR.
Supervisor



OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

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May 13, 2021

The Honorable James Gaughran
New York State Senator
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 848
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Steven Otis
New York State Assemblyman
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 327
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Senator Gaughran and Assemblyman Otis:

I write today to express my support for legislation you have sponsored in your respective chambers: S1003/S1004 and A6160/A6242. The package of legislation, should it successfully move through the proper channels and become law, would provide the Town of Hempstead and other municipalities an opportunity to explore changes that may streamline the permitting process as it relates to building permits (S1003/A6160) and certificates of occupancy (S1004/A6242).

As part of their service to the residents of America's largest township, the staff members of the Hempstead Town Building Department receive a sizable amount of building permit applications and requests for certificates of occupancy. The swift review of these applications by the township's building department is crucial in the development of new structures and the success of the area's economy. It is my understanding that the changes proposed in the above named legislation would allow for certain properly licensed building/design professionals to utilize their state provided licenses to self-certify certain construction detail, fire, and life-safety codes regulated by New York State building code. This self-certification outlined in the legislation could potentially allow for a further streamlined construction process and faster turnaround time on new constructions – a boon to local businesses while still maintaining and adhering to New York State safety standards.

I believe the proposed legislative changes outlined in S1003/S1004 and A6160/A6242 are beneficial to the Town of Hempstead. I support the passage of these bills, and look forward to further studying this process and ways this municipality can best support further local development while prioritizing safety.

Sincerely,

Donald X, Clavin, Jr.
Supervisor



The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Room 907 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Room 932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

Re: Creating self-certification and conditional building permit programs for municipal building departments: S.1003/A.6160 and S.1004/A.6242

To the Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins and the Honorable Carl Heastie,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to offer our enthusiastic support for the passage of S.1003/A.6160 and S.1004/A.6242. These bills would allow municipalities to create programs allowing conditional building permits and self-certification for building permits, alleviating permitting timelines and reducing soft costs for rooftop solar projects across New York State.

A self-certification program would allow a licensed registered architect or professional engineer to inspect construction projects and confirm that the project is in compliance with the applicable codes and regulations. Municipal building departments would be allowed to accept construction documents, certified by an applicant who is a professional architect or professional engineer, for issuance of a certificate of occupancy through the conditional building permit program, eliminating the need for a full examination from the local building department. This creates an expedited permitting process, saving time and resources for the municipality and applicant and allowing new projects to get off the ground quickly.

Consequently, as more projects get off the ground at faster rates, rooftop solar energy systems can be deployed in New York State more quickly, supporting the goals set forth in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. New York State has less than four years to meet the 2025 goal of 6 gigawatts of distributed solar installations, and was still over 3 gigawatts away from achieving that

goal at the end of 2020. S.1003/A.6160 and S.1004/A.6242 will contribute to continued, rapid deployment of clean, renewable solar energy.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the state's economy, and enacting S.1003/A.6160 and S.1004/A.6242 can be one of many steps to facilitating a quick recovery of the state's businesses, both small and large, to boost local investments, create new jobs, and encourage development. Conditional building permits and self-certification would ease the burden on local permitting and building departments, which have been facing a backlog of permits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Local governments and municipalities have an opportunity increase efficiency in the building permit process, encouraging development and increasing investments in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

CC: The Honorable James Gaughran, Chair, NYS Senate Local Governments Committee (Sponsor)

The Honorable Brian Kavanaugh, Chair, NYS Senate Housing Committee

The Honorable Fred Thiele, Chair, NYS Assembly Local Governments Committee

The Honorable Kenneth Zebrowski, Chair, NYS Assembly Governmental Operations Committee

The Honorable Steven Otis, NYS Assembly Sponsor

Sincerely,

Anne Reynolds, Executive Director, **Alliance for Clean Energy New York**

George Povall, Executive Director, **All Our Energy**

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director, **Citizens Campaign for the Environment**

Cullen Howe, Senior Attorney and Renewable Energy Advocate, **Natural Resources Defense Council**

Echo Cartwright, Climate Mitigation Director, **The Nature Conservancy**

Julie Tighe, President, **New York League of Conservation Voters**

Shyam Mehta, Executive Director, **New York Solar Energy Industries Association**

Elizabeth Broad, Campaign Director, **New Yorkers for Clean Power**

Gordian Raacke, Executive Director, **Renewable Energy Long Island**

Neal Lewis, Executive Director, **The Sustainability Institute at Molloy College**

Nina Orville, Executive Director, **Sustainable Westchester**

Stephan Roundtree, Northeast Director, **Vote Solar**