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BUSINESS AND LABOR APPLAUD GOVERNOR CUOMO FOR VETOING ANTI-SAND MINING BILL A. 10001 / S. 8026

Bill Would Have Halted Construction and Hurt Union Jobs

Long Island, NY – Business and labor groups today applauded Governor Cuomo for his veto of the New York Anti-Sand Mining Bill A. 10001 / S. 8026. Groups said the bill would have essentially outlawed mining, halted construction and put union jobs on hold. Due to the pandemic, the bill would have damaged an already ailing economy on Long Island and hurt the construction industry. Today, the Governor effectively vetoed the bill by creating a two year study to analyze the scientific effects of sand mining.

“By calling for a scientific study to be performed by the professionals within the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health, Governor Cuomo rightly is removing politics from a decision that has serious effects for real people. Right now, the need for infrastructure improvement is greater than ever, in these times we need a way streamline the process, not hurt the industry. We applaud Governor Cuomo’s courageous and correct decision and look forward to working with objective professionals who will properly assess any health and safety concerns,” said **Marc Herbst, Long Island Contractors Association Executive Director**.

“The Governor was right to put working people and union jobs front and center in his decision making. Now is not the time to halt construction and put people out of work. Long Island will be stronger, safer, and better because of this compromise,” said **Gary LaBarbera, President, of both, New York State Building and Construction Trades Council and Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York**.

“This decision by the Governor shows that he is committed to protecting good jobs in this terrible pandemic. Now is not the time put to union jobs on hold for politics. He did the right thing for labor and for New York,” said **Vincent Albanese, Director, New York State Laborers Organizing Fund and PAC**.

“This compromise ensures the movement of critical construction materials will not be halted, effectively shutting down construction on Long Island. We thank Governor Cuomo for making this critical decision and look forward to safely continuing construction on Long Island,” **said Dave Hamling, President & CEO, New York Construction Materials Association.**

“The Governor took another step towards protecting small businesses during these uncertain times. For that, we thank him. To survive today, businesses need the flexibility to work openly, not be stifled,” **James D. Barker, President of Roanoke Sand & Gravel Corp.**

About LICA

As the voice of Long Island's Highway and Infrastructure Professionals, LICA represents Long Island's premier heavy construction general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and industry supporters. Focused primarily in the infrastructure construction industry, such as highways, bridges, sewers, parks, other public works and private site development, LICA's member companies play a significant role in sustaining the region's quality of life and economic engine that is Nassau and Suffolk Counties.