



LONG ISLAND
BUILDERS INSTITUTE

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MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

TITLE OF LEGISLATION: Resolution 1169-2017

A local law to establish a sewer connection policy which would require union apprentice and local hiring requirements.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

This legislation would require any project which has a contract with a county sewer district of over 75,000 gallons to be required to only use companies which have a local apprentice program.

REASONS FOR OPPOSITION:

Development projects on Long Island are faced with extensive permit requirements, substantial financing costs and Article 78 litigation which delays and increases the cost of doing business in Suffolk County. In addition, as our water resource needs become more important, it is very important for our projects to connect to county sewers, many of which are paid for solely by the developer involved and not the county.

There is no evidence at all which is presented which indicates that companies which do not have apprentice programs do not pay fair wages or do not hire Long Island contractors. Flexibility is necessary in these larger projects, after the millions of dollars which our developers put into the projects for infrastructure mitigation and other benefits. Suffolk County should welcome these large developments and sewer connections as the project creates jobs, provides housing for our young people and provides environmental protection through the developer funded sewer systems.

In addition, almost all state licensed apprentice programs are operated by labor unions. No company should be forced to use a labor union for its workers, but that company should be able to bid as all other companies can. One should not be forced to use a specific type of company, but that is what this legislation would accomplish.

A sewer connection is not a gift to a developer, it is a partnership with the larger community to provide economic benefits and environmental protection. In these times of significant county budgetary issues, large scale developments substantially add to county and local real property tax collections. It is essential that the county work with developers who are willing to invest millions of dollars in our community and not to limit the flexibility needed to make these projects succeed.