



Enterprise Association Steamfitters Local 638 2023 Legislative Priorities

About

Steamfitters Local 638 maintains jurisdiction over all general pipefitting in New York City and Long Island; we are a joint local representing workers in Hot Water Hydraulic, Sprinkler, Pneumatic Tube, Ice Machine, General Pipe Fitters and Sprinklerfitters. Local 638 is an affiliate of the New York City and State Building and Construction Trades Councils as well as the Nassau/Suffolk County Building Trades. We maintain an active and robust Political Action Committee driven by the engagement and participation of our members in New York City and Long Island. We support strong wage and safety standards in construction, clean energy and enhanced fire safety and prevention. Below is a list of critical legislation in the 2023 session:

Prevailing Wage and Labor Standards in Construction

A5486 (Joyner)/S6050 (Mayer) Relates to requiring the use of project labor agreements for large scale construction projects under the state university construction fund. **Strongly Support:** In recent years, contracts at SUNY campuses are frequently being awarded to unscrupulous, out-of-state contractors who pervasively commit wage theft and worker misclassification. The legislature needs to act to ensure that public dollars being invested in higher education creates good-wage, union jobs in construction.

A2512 (Dilan)/S5422 (Ramos) Relates to Modular Construction Work. **Strongly Support:** Recent advances have led to an increase in the use of modular construction in large residential and commercial high rise construction and facilities. Labor law needs to be updated to ensure that all electrical, plumbing and fire suppression work is being conducted by licensed and skilled professionals in the municipality where the work is being performed.

A373 (Bronson)/S5475 (Jackson) Relates to offsite fabrication work and the prevailing wage. **Strongly Support:** Many public works construction projects require the use of offsite fabrication of building systems. Adding custom fabrication to the prevailing wage law will ensure that workers performing this work are being paid a fair and equitable wage, and prevent unscrupulous contractors from circumventing the purpose and intent of New York's prevailing wage law.

Clean Energy and Climate

A964 (Woerner)/S1292 (Parker) Establishes the Clean Fuels Standard of 2023. **Strongly Support:** This legislation would reduce the pollution and emissions from the transportation sector via a credit system that would require high-carbon fuels to promote the development and manufacture of low carbon fuels. Facilities creating low and zero carbon alternative fuels will put Steamfitters and members of the pipetrades to work across the state developing clean energy solutions in the transportation sector while lowering the state's GHG emissions.

A920 (Gallagher)/S562A (Kavanagh) Enacts the 'All Electric Buildings' Act. **Strongly Oppose:** As the union representing the workers who build, maintain and repair the existing gas system and HVAC equipment in large buildings, Local 638 opposes any legislation that bans existing fuels without funding and developing alternative clean energy solutions that will put our members to work. The legislature and executive have been presented with alternative paths to decarbonize buildings using a variety of technologies that create jobs for our members and others in the unionized construction industry, which are preferable to this legislation.

S378A (Parker) Relates to establishing a renewable hydrogen incentive and financing program. **Neutral:** The development and expansion of renewable hydrogen represents an opportunity to create zero-carbon paths to powering some buildings and difficult-to-decarbonize sectors of transportation and industrial processing, while putting members of Local 638 to work constructing and maintaining plants. However, if the state is going to create an incentive and financing program for renewable or "green" hydrogen,



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it is essential that labor standards be attached to legislation, to ensure that hydrogen projects are being built by a skilled and trained, union workforce.

Fire Safety

S1843 (Comrie) Provides a tax credit for the installation of fire sprinkler systems for residential properties. **Strongly Support:** Seemingly every few weeks, news accounts detail property damage, injury or loss of life due to preventable fires in residential buildings. Fire safety sprinklers are the single most effective way to suppress fires in buildings and save lives. This measure would not only help owners by providing a tax credit for installing these life-saving systems, but would also protect tenants and residents while putting members of Local 638's fire safety division to work.

A5617 (Zebrowski)/S2418 (Comrie) Expands remedies for violations of New York state uniform fire prevention and building code. **Strongly Support:** Current law allows for wide discretion in handing down penalties for building code violation, many of which relate to the safety of occupants and first responders in the event of a fire. We support taking violations more seriously and imposing serious penalties for negligent owners who potentially put their tenants at risk.