

Reinvent Albany • Alliance for Quality Education  
Citizen Action of New York • Citizens Union • Common Cause/NY  
Empire Station Coalition • Fiscal Policy Institute • Housing Works  
Humanscale NYC • Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State  
League of Women Voters of NYS • Manhattan Community Board Five  
Midtown South Community Council • Metro New York Health Care for All  
New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness • New York Public Interest Research Group  
New York State Council of Churches • NY Communities for Change  
PEER/NYPAN Suffolk County  
Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC)  
ReThinkNYC • Save Chelsea • Statewide Senior Action Council  
Strong Economy for All Coalition • Tri-State Transportation Campaign  
Westchester for Change  
251 West 30th Street Residential Tenants Association  
United Neighborhood Houses • Union Square Community Coalition [USCC]

## **MEMO OF SUPPORT**

[S7337 \(Comrie\)/A10157 \(Paulin\)](#)

*Repeals certain provisions relating to voting by members of  
the New York State Authorities Control Board*

**November 15, 2022**

### **Title**

An act to repeal subdivision 6 of section 51 of the public authorities law, relating to voting by members of the New York state authorities control board

### **Summary**

This bill repeals subdivision 6 of section 51 of the public authorities law, relating to voting by members of the New York state authorities control board.

### **Statement of Support**

This bill would repeal changes pushed by former Governor Cuomo without public debate or discussion during the FY 2019-2020 budget cycle, which gave the executive the power to remove members of the Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) and limited their scope to only consider whether there are sufficient funding commitments for projects. The legislation restores the independence of the PACB and ensures that the

legislative and other representatives on this body are given the power to conduct proper oversight of public authority proposals without fear of retribution.

The move by the former Governor to limit PACB members' authority is counter to the purposes of the PACB, which was founded in the wake of the Urban Development Corporation (now ESD) crisis of the mid-1970s. Then, as now, it was crucial that an informed board act independently and in the public interest to determine project feasibility. To make such a determination, the board is tasked with analyzing fee, revenue, and securities projections, among other details. When the former Governor limited board members' powers and empowered the executive to unilaterally remove members of the PACB, it subverted the board's very reason for existing.

We ask that the Governor restore the independence of the PACB by signing this bill without delay, and without any chapter amendments. The legislation was passed with unanimous approval in the Senate, and with overwhelming support in the Assembly.