



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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May 30, 2019

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Hon. Stephen Sweeney, President
New Jersey State Senate
125 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Hon. Craig Coughlin, Assembly Speaker
New Jersey State Assembly
125 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear President Sweeney and Speaker Coughlin,

On behalf of the members of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), including the thousands of State workers in New Jersey represented by IFPTE, we are writing regarding Governor Murphy's recent veto of Senate Bill 1246. We understand that you are considering putting together a package of bills that were also rejected by the Governor and urge you to consider including Senate Bill 1246 as a part of that package.

IFPTE appreciates the support that each of you showed for this bill by fostering it to passage in both of your respective chambers, and were equally pleased that the legislation, authored by Senators Ronald Rice & Sandra Cunningham, and Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, ultimately passed without a single vote of disapproval. Unfortunately, and much to our dismay, the Governor decided to veto the bill earlier this month.

This safety legislation is desperately needed for both the workers and the public. It will do the following:

- Mandate enhanced inclement weather precautions such as roadside warning signs, safety vehicles and variable message signs placed at the proper distance to the work zone to prepare motorists for emergency maintenance ahead;
- Prohibit management from assigning work that includes the use of power tools in inclement weather for non-emergency operations;
- Mandate that all roadside maintenance operations involving the use of gas-powered landscaping equipment be performed during daylight hours, except in emergency situations; and
- Require that portable roadside light towers be used during all roadside maintenance performed before or after daylight hours.

Please stand up for common sense safety while overriding the Governor's veto by including Senate Bill 1246 in your package of recently vetoed legislation.

Sincerely,

Sean McBride,
Atlantic Area VP

Paul Shearon,
President

Matthew Biggs,
Secretary-Treasurer/Legislative Director

Cc: Gerald Newsome, Atlantic Area VP/Local 195 VP
Timothy Rudolph, Atlantic Area President/Local 195 President
Charlie Wowkanec, President, New Jersey AFL-CIO

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