



American Lung Association
in New York | *Serving the
62 Counties of New York*

www.alany.org
1-800-LUNG-USA

155 Washington Ave., Ste. 210
Albany, New York 12210
phone: (518) 465-2013
fax: (518) 465-2926

700 Veterans Memorial Hwy.
Hauppauge, New York 11788
phone: (631) 265-3848
fax: (631) 389-1078

116 John St., 30th Floor
New York, New York 10038
phone: (212) 889-3370
fax: (212) 889-3375

1595 Elmwood Ave.
Rochester, New York 14620
phone: (585) 442-4260
fax: (585) 442-4263

237 Mamaroneck Ave., Ste. 205
White Plains, New York 10605
phone: (914) 347-2094
fax: (914) 347-2189

Irwin Berlin, MD
Chair

Robert A. Roth, CPA
Vice-Chair

Lynda J. Hullstrung, CPA
Treasurer

Adrienne Weiss-Harrison, MD
Secretary

Scott Santarella
President and CEO

Testimony of Michael Seilback
American Lung Association in New York
Meeting of the New York City Council Housing & Buildings Committee
October 20, 2010

RE: Intros. No. 338, 340, 341, 342, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 358

Good afternoon, my name is Michael Seilback, Vice President for Public Policy & Communications for the American Lung Association in New York. On behalf of the Lung Association, I would like to express our strong support for the suite of bills being considered today. Once approved, these bills will make New York's air cleaner and make it easier for millions of New Yorkers to breathe.

This suite of bills will modernize the framework and infrastructure of our city, which will encourage the use of greener, cleaner technologies including wind, solar, cool roofs, green roofs, and greenhouses. These bills will ensure greater energy efficiency, cleaner air, and encourage the use of renewable and energy efficient power generation systems. These measures will lead to cleaner air and reduced energy use which will decrease costs, while protecting the environment. We also support the bills which would direct the City of New York to install photovoltaic energy and solar hot water systems on its own buildings. We believe this will lead to clean energy production and will likely spur wider deployment in private buildings.

The New York City Community Health Survey illustrated in graphic detail, the impact that dirty heating oil has on our neighborhoods. While you recently have taken steps to reduce sulfur levels in #2 and #4 heating oil, these bills will help shift from a reliance on oil to renewable sources including wind and solar power.

Reduced energy consumption directly translates into less smog, fewer asthma attacks, and reduced incidence of lung and heart disease. Despite the major steps that the City of New York has taken to reduce air pollution, the American Lung Association's State of the Air 2010 report finds that while our air is getting cleaner, it is still among the dirtiest in the nation. According to the report, over 12 million New Yorkers -- more than 62 percent of the state's residents -- live in counties where unhealthy air threatens their lives and health.

The American Lung Association in New York offers our strong support for this suite of bills because they will provide healthier air for New Yorkers to breathe.