New York Legislative Update  
MAY 2019

State News:
There was quite a bit of activity in May. NRLA hosted its annual Lobby Day in Albany on May 6th. NRLA-NY members from across the state attended an information briefing in the morning at the NRLA office, which included remarks by Assemblyman John McDonald, followed by an afternoon of lobbying their legislators on our priority issues. The day wrapped up with a debriefing session where we compared notes and feedback from legislators. Thank you everyone that took time out of their busy schedules to attend.

Issues Update:
Retainage: A.574 (Braunstein). We have a new Senate sponsor! Senator Brooks has introduced companion bill S.5498, which was referred to the Finance Committee. The Assembly bill is also on the Assembly Governmental Affairs Committee agenda.

Unfair Religious Exemptions by the Amish: We met with Senator George Amedore. We are continuing to educate legislators on the importance of leveling the playing field with the Amish builders that do not have to pay taxes or workers compensation. This is an unfair advantage to lumber retailers and builders that must abide by NYS laws. We have been researching their “unconventional” practices in other areas as well. We will continue to find angles to attack this.

Commercial Claims: S.1832 / A.4360 (Gianaris / DenDekker) This bill will raise the civil jurisdictional limits from the current $5,000 to $10,000 for commercial claims and small claims courts in all courts except justice courts. The bill has passed in the Senate and our focus will be the Assembly and the Office of Court Administration to advance the bill in the Assembly. We continue to work on the bill with our sponsor Member of Assembly DenDekker as well as central staff for the Speaker.

Small Business Package of Bills: We have identified a package of small business reform bills that we will support along with The Business Council of NYS and the National Federation of Independent Business. Our commercial claims legislation is part of the package. The Senate and Assembly seem favorably disposed to move forward towards passage of these common-sense small business initiatives.

Did You Know?
The lumber and building materials industry has taxable annual wages of $1,734,396,868 in N.Y.

Questions?
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