



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Addabbo Introduces Legislation to Address Safety Concerns Surrounding Battery Energy Storage Systems

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. April 11, 2025

Queens, NY (April 9, 2025): In direct response to constituent concerns regarding the location and safety of battery energy storage systems (BESS), New York State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. has introduced new legislation (S.7197) aimed at enhancing transparency, oversight, and community involvement in the siting process of these facilities.

Addabbo's bill seeks to establish stronger regulatory guidelines concerning the placement of BESS infrastructure in residential and environmentally sensitive areas. As clean energy technologies continue to expand across the state, it is crucial to emphasize the need to balance environmental goals with public safety and community input.

“I support our transition to a greener energy future, but it must be done responsibly and with the safety of our neighborhoods in mind,” said Senator Addabbo. “This legislation is about listening to and addressing residents’ concerns by taking proper precautions when siting battery energy storage systems in our communities,” concluded Addabbo.

The legislation, S.7197, increases transparency from developers, including early notification to local officials and residents, comprehensive safety reviews, and strict adherence to fire

and building codes. It also promotes collaboration with fire departments and emergency services to ensure preparedness during a battery storage incident.

Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Public Service, in coordination with other state agencies, to provide municipalities with battery storage siting laws and guidance, which includes a minimum 250-foot setback and financial surety requirements. Additionally, the NYC Fire Code would be amended to mandate the minimum setback of 250 feet from residential property for commercial battery storage systems of 5 MW or greater and a community hearing before approval of such projects.

“Growing constituent concerns about the potential hazards of battery energy storage installations, including fire risk and insufficient emergency response planning, prompted me to work with my state legislative colleagues, such as Assemblymember Jaime Williams, to introduce this proactive measure aimed at safeguarding our communities while supporting New York's clean energy objectives,” Addabbo stated.

S.7197/A.6955-A is currently under consideration in the NYS Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee and the Assembly Energy Committee, where Assembly member Jaime Williams is the prime sponsor of the companion bill.