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Hon. John J. Flanagan Temporary President & Majority Leader New York State Senate 330 Capitol Albany, NY 12247



**ALBANY 12247** June 11, 2018

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# Leader Flanagan,

We are aware that this letter comes to you as the conclusion of the 2017-18 Legislative Session draws near. We also understand that the issue of registering and making safe lofts in New York City does not affect the majority of your members. That said, it has been your members that have given critical support to this matter and helped keep our constituents in their homes and at work. We ask that this bipartisan partnership continue this session and that S.6828, the Loft Law Clean-Up bill, is brought to the floor for a vote.

In the past, there has been little objection to the Loft Law. It has passed overwhelmingly. It is among a short list of policies that neither of our conferences' respective stakeholders are critical of; yet it is of critical importance to working New Yorkers. It has largely been a matter of local enforcement, and offered owners and tenants a long sought after resolution to bring lofts into compliance with safety requirements. This Friday, June 15, marks one year since access to these protections and guidance expired. They were the result of a 2015 bipartisan effort.

If we do not act on a Loft Law clean up, and reestablish these protections before the close of session this year, there are very real consequences. The direction it provides owners, the protections it offers tenants, the live-work spaces it guarantees, and the matter of public safety it resolves, are gone. This uncertainty, of who can stay and what is considered a residence, is in large part due to the ambiguity of the Loft Law. This is why we support a cleanup of the current bill.

We want people to stay, and work, in their homes. We know this is not a position unique to our affiliations. You and your members fight for these same things every day. We are asking that before the close of session, we do it together, again.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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enator Jesse Hamilton

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