



December 8, 2009

Hon. Christine Quinn
New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

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Dear Speaker Quinn:

The Women's City Club of New York urges passage of the Greener, Greater Buildings legislation, Intro. 564-A and Intro. 973-A, which would require that all renovations to New York City buildings conform to the energy conservation requirements of the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code, and that lighting be upgraded whenever significant renovations are made to tenanted space.

As you know, the Women's City Club is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that since its founding in 1915 has shaped public policy through education, issue analysis, advocacy and civic participation. Our objectives include ensuring a vital and sustainable future for New York City. By 2030, approximately 85% of the City's energy use will come from buildings that are in existence today. Enhancing the energy efficiency of the existing building stock is an essential step in reducing the City's footprint on the environment.

The NYS Energy Conservation Construction Code - which sets standards for building envelopes, e.g., windows, floors, roofs and doors, as well as HVAC and water systems and lighting - applies only to renovations of more than 50% of a building's system or subsystem. Intro. 564-A would close this loophole by requiring that any renovation to these building elements meet the specified standards.

Lighting upgrades to the latest technologies have a high benefit-to-cost ratio and therefore a short payback period. Intro. 973-A would require that lighting be upgraded whenever significant renovations are made to any part of a tenanted space.

We urge you to pass this important legislation, to help ensure that New York City remains a great place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Acker, President

Joan Freilich, Chair
Environment & Infrastructure Committee