



*Historians Striving for Excellence*

**Association of Public Historians of New York State**

1450 Western Avenue, Suite 101, Albany, New York 12203

Phone: (518) 694-5002 • Fax: (518) 463-8656

E-Mail: [aphnys@caphill.com](mailto:aphnys@caphill.com) • Web Site: [www.aphnys.org](http://www.aphnys.org)

May 24, 2010

Mr. Peter J. Kiernan  
Counsel to the Governor  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Peter J. Kiernan, Esq.:

The Association of Public Historians of New York State asks Governor Paterson to support and sign the Public Historians Bill (S.7389/A.7885-A).

In 1919, New York State took the lead in the preservation of history with the passage of legislation to create a legion of officially appointed historians in every town, village, city, borough and county across the Empire State. Unique in its concept, it provided every municipality with a distinctly identifiable person whose duties would be to ensure that the history of that area was collected, preserved and used to promote the history and heritage of our communities. New York State is the only state in the nation to require a Local Government Historian by law.

Unfortunately, there are over 200 communities in New York State that do not have an appointed historian to protect and promote their local heritage. S. 7389/A.7885-A addresses the need of filling these vacancies through the keeping of a central roll of local government historians ensuring that all vacancies are filled by an appropriate candidate and raising the standards of the position of Local Government Historians throughout the state.

The Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS), chartered by the New York Board of Regents as the professional advocacy association for all of the State's Local Government Historians, fully supports this legislation as another way that the rich history and heritage of the Empire State can be preserved for future generations. Our members represent every county, borough, city, town and village in New York State.

This legislation has no fiscal impact on the State of New York. In support of this legislation, APHNYS will work diligently with the State Education Department, Office of Cultural Education and State Historian Robert Weible to ensure an accurate central roll of Local Government Historians is kept in order to provide every community in the state with the fullest support in the preservation of its past.

If you have any questions regarding this legislation, please contact our Administrator Brian Buff at (518) 694-0056 or [aphnys@caphill.com](mailto:aphnys@caphill.com).

Thank you for helping us in the preservation of New York State's history!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol McKenna".

Carol McKenna, President  
Village of Valley Stream Historian

*Working to promote the heritage and history of New York State*