



A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

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Legislators, Fire Officials, Labor Announce Effort to Strengthen New Jersey Building Standards

Press Conference Included Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Deputy Speaker Wayne P. DeAngelo, Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco, NJ FMBA President Ed Donnelly, PFANJ, IAFF/AFL-CIO President Dominick Marino and NJFPPA President Rich Silvia

Atlantic City, NJ – Build with Strength held a press conference on Wednesday morning alongside Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Deputy Speaker Wayne P. DeAngelo, Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco, NJ FMBA President Ed Donnelly, PFANJ, IAFF/AFL-CIO President Dominick Marino and NJFPPA President Rich Silvia to discuss their commitment to advance legislation that will improve safety standards for new mid- and high-rise lightweight construction. Over three years after a fire decimated the Avalon at Edgewater, state officials, labor, fire safety experts, and eight counties representing 56% of the state’s population are in agreement that New Jersey must strengthen its buildings using non-combustible materials to ensure safety to its communities. Assembly Bill 135 and Senate Bill 1261 resolves this need.

"I look forward to passing this bill to ensure that when our brave men and women run into that fire, they're safe and that we have done everything we possibly can to protect them so that they can go home to their families." said **Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney**, a vocal supporter of A-135 and S-1261. "I pledge to you that I'll be moving [the bill] before the end of the year," said Sweeney.

"We know the industry, we've worked in the industry and we want to make sure that our construction practices are built up to 2018 standards moving forward," said **Deputy Speaker Wayne P. DeAngelo**, the Assembly Bill's primary sponsor.

"It was easy for me, after the fire in Edgewater, to advocate for the change in legislation to have sprinklers, masonry walls and separation and compartmentation as part of the uniform construction code and laws here in New Jersey," said **Bergen County Executive, Jim Tedesco**. Bergen County was the most recent county to pass a resolution in support of this legislation, bringing support for the legislation to over half of the New Jersey population.

In addition to the eight counties representing over half of the state's population in support of this legislation, fire and labor leadership stand behind the call for strengthened building standards as well. Ed Donnelly, President of the New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association and Build with Strength coalition member, penned an [op-ed](#) that outlines the critical importance of this legislation in improving fire safety standards across the state of New Jersey.

"This is a common-sense piece of legislation that is going to protect the residents of New Jersey," said **Ed Donnelly of the Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association**. "This legislation is long overdue and its time we get this done, without question."

Build with Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), has launched a campaign to educate citizens, local and state officials, and industry experts about the inherent dangers of wood-framed construction, particularly in multi-story, residential and commercial buildings. As a grassroots organization, they work with local elected officials and industry workers, from architects to project managers to advocate for the safety benefits of working with concrete-based construction.

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com

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