

FIRMAN CONSULTING LLC

April 26, 2004

Assemblymember RoAnn Destito
116th Assembly District
Chair, Committee on Governmental Operations
Legislative Office Building 621
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblymember Destitio,

It has come to my attention that Assemblymember David Koon's proposed Bill A08817, which requires state agencies to consider using open source software in its public computing functions, has been in your committee for almost 12 months. I urge you and your committee to immediately vote in favor of this bill in order for the bill to proceed to the general assembly.

Several other states including Massachusetts, California, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Maine and Alabama are pursuing policies and legislation to encourage the use of open-source software. I have enclosed an article from InformationWeek Magazine for your committee to read which describes the efforts of several states creating a software repository to let government agencies make more efficient use of open-source software. Not only do I hope NY State passes Bill A08817 quickly, but that NY State actually joins the Government Open Code Collaborative Group.

Because of this Bill A08817 sitting in committee, I am in the process of creating the NY State Open Source Initiative which may become a non-profit corporation dedicated to encouraging your Governmental Operations Committee to vote in favor of this bill. For now, the website is active and I highly encourage you, and everyone in your committee to read every article in the news section for educational purposes found here: <http://www.nyopensource.org/news>

On a personal note, my wife and I just recently moved to NY State for family reasons and we are absolutely stunned at the extremely high property taxes, high income taxes, and high sales taxes along with all the miscellaneous fees from state and local governments. If the state of NY would adopt the use of open-source software to save millions of dollars in proprietary software licensing, then the ridiculous tax burden on the citizens of NY state may not be so great. Please vote this bill forward as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andrew Firman
General Manager
Firman Consulting LLC
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Webmaster & Director
NY State Open Source Initiative
<http://www.nyopensource.org>

cc: Assemblymember David Koon
135th Assembly District
Legislative Office Building 643
Albany, NY 12248