

INTRO 3-15

LEGISLATIVE REGISTRY FEB 14 '12 AM 10:43

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS GRANT, MAZUR, MILLS, HOGUES, HARDWICK,
LOUGHRAN, RATH, McCRACKEN, DIXON & LORIGO**

RE: Encouraging Erie County Homeowners to Test Their Homes for Radon Gas

WHEREAS, radon is an invisible, odorless radioactive gas that emanates from rocks, soil and water, seeping into homes and posing substantial health risks at elevated levels; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that one in 15 homes in the United States has an elevated level of radon prior to remedial treatment; and

WHEREAS, radon is the leading cause of non-smoking related cancer deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 21,000 radon-related deaths were recorded in this country, more than the total number of deaths from drunken driving, drowning and plane crashes combined; and

WHEREAS, according to The Wall Street Journal, there are no federal or state regulations that mandate home radon testing, even though the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory in 2005 urging all Americans to have one done; and

WHEREAS, certain communities in Erie County are hotbeds for radon gas, including but not limited to the Towns of Marilla, Aurora, Holland, Concord, Collins and Sardinia; and

WHEREAS, radon gas seepage into homes is not limited to our rural communities, but has also been recorded in high-population areas such as the Town of Cheektowaga and the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, environmental experts recommend that homes be tested for radon on an annual basis, ideally, as something as unremarkable as a neighbor putting in a pool or sewer line work being done nearby could affect the movement of underground gas into homes; and

WHEREAS, in New York State, homebuyers have the right to have their prospective home tested for radon, yet many do not take advantage of this right; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment & Planning provides inexpensive radon tests for \$8 per test; and

WHEREAS, at the very least, testing one's home for radon provides peace of mind when the test results do not indicate the need for remediation, and at the very most, can save the lives of the residents of that home when remediation is both indicated and completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that residents of Erie County are encouraged to contact the Department of Environment & Planning to obtain an inexpensive radon test and to test their homes for radon; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby authorized to forward certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive, the Commissioner of Environment & Planning, the Mayor of the City of Buffalo, the Buffalo Common Council, the Supervisor of Cheektowaga, the Cheektowaga Town Board and the Association of Erie County Governments.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.