

PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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Affiliated with: – International Association of Fire Fighters, American Federation of Labor,
Congress of Industrial Organizations, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, Local Labor Union



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February 1, 2013

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
State of New York
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am writing to you today, not as a constituent, but as President of Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association. We cannot sit by while our brother and sisters in the New York are the targets of constant acts by you since becoming Governor.

We view the myopic actions during your first two years as the state's chief executive to be unreasonably punitive to the members of the fire service. You have attempted to divide New York's first responders by creating a new pension tier, even before the impact of a modification enacted in 2010 was known.

You have advanced legislation that erodes the rights of fire fighters by circumventing the very fair process of binding arbitration. This "Right to Work" legislation demeans a profession that has been built on the blood, sweat, tears and souls of countless New York fire fighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting your constituents.

New York has always been a bastion of progressive labor tradition. We are dismayed by this dramatic shift away from what was once a "fair" state for fire fighters rights.

We question your sincerity, are confused by your ideology and simply are unable to understand your true political compass.

Please withdraw your ill thought out proposal. Fire fighters who take an oath to make the supreme sacrifice if called upon deserve better.

Respectfully

Art Martynuska, President
Pennsylvania Professional Fire
Fighters Association