

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Watchdog Groups Praise Comptroller's Blueprint for Procurement Reforms**

*Groups emphasize importance of independent oversight in wake of \$800 million bid rigging scandal*

Our groups strongly support Comptroller DiNapoli's package of procurement reforms. We believe the Comptroller's proposals are pragmatic steps for strengthening independent oversight over billions of dollars of state contracts, and will add much-needed transparency and minimum standards to the award of contracts by agencies, public authorities, and other state entities.

We particularly welcome the Comptroller's proposed reforms, given the "systemic problems" with the state's procurement process identified by federal and state prosecutors in the wake of the alleged rigging of \$800 million in Upstate economic development contracts.

The New York State constitution created the Office of the State Comptroller to provide independent oversight over agencies and authorities controlled by the governor. Our groups support strengthening the Comptroller's oversight authority and believe it will help prevent the further abuse of taxpayer funds.

In addition to the Comptroller's reforms, the groups have proposed other Clean Contracting solutions and urged state leaders to reduce the potential for conflicts of interest by exploring options to limit campaign contributions from anyone who has or is seeking a state contract. Nineteen states and NYC have such "pay to play" laws, NY State does not.

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