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Proposed legislation would ban construction of lithium-ion battery storage sites on Staten Island

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Lithium-ion battery storage sites, like this one on the corner of Hylan Boulevard and Littlefield Avenue in Eltingville, have been rapidly cropping up throughout Staten Island. Elected officials are now introducing legislation that would ban them. (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

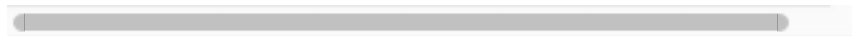
By [Jessica Jones-Gorman | jgorman@siadvance.com](mailto:jgorman@siadvance.com)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- State Sen. Andrew Lanza and Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo are making their opposition to Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) known, officially announcing the introduction of legislation to prohibit their installation within Staten Island.

“In response to the rightful community backlash regarding BESS sites being installed in residential and school zones, Senator Andrew Lanza and I are proud to announce legislation to prohibit the siting or operation of these machines in residential or school zones on Staten Island,” Pirozzolo (R-Mid-Island/North Shore) said in a statement. “While I firmly believe that this type of energy-technology is the future, the implementation has to be practical and responsible. Placing a large, sophisticated machine, filled with potentially explosive lithium-ion


batteries, in residential or school communities is unacceptable. The fires caused by these batteries typically cannot be extinguished because of the presence of harsh chemical toxins, increasing the hazard and potential damage.”

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Community opposition to one such site in Bulls Head -- located in close proximity to a church and six local schools -- forced developers to officially withdraw project plans in January. Other such projects, which have been rapidly cropping up across the borough, each housing rechargeable lithium-ion battery systems manufactured by Tesla, have faced similar public criticism.

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“At the end of the day, the terms ‘classroom’ and ‘blast-radius’ should never, ever be in the same sentence,” Pirozzolo continued. “I look forward to seeing the passage of this bill that puts Staten Island families and communities first.”

Lanza (R-Staten Island) added: “We oppose the Battery Energy Storage Sites being constructed in residential neighborhoods near homes and schools in Staten Island. They are unsightly and potentially dangerous and were begun without community input or concern for Staten Islanders. Furthermore, these schemes will lead to increased electric costs.”

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