



**Pennsylvania Municipal League**  
President – Derek Green, Councilmember, City of Philadelphia



**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners**  
President – Nathan Silcox, Commissioner, Hampden Township

## MEMO

To: The Honorable Members of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee  
From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, The League and PSATC  
Date: September 27, 2021  
Re: Senate Bill 634 (PN 707) - UCC Third Party Inspectors

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On behalf of the membership of the Pennsylvania Municipal League (The League) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), I am writing in opposition to the two inspector mandate in Senate Bill 634 (PN 707) scheduled for Committee action on Tuesday, September 28.

The League and PSATC have long opposed the concept of mandating the number of third-party inspectors that must be available in a municipality. Currently under the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), it is a local decision to provide permit applicants with a choice of more than one third-party inspector, and we believe that decision should remain local.

Mandating more than one inspector requires a municipality to expand its oversight of UCC inspections to ensure the Code is applied consistently throughout a community. Local government officials must preserve the flexibility and authority to decide locally if they want to expand their UCC program beyond one third-party inspector, rather than being forced into expanding their program.

This concept has taken many forms over the last several sessions and we appreciate the improvements that have been made along the way. We recognize that there has been a reduction in the number of third-party inspectors required to two, but it is nonetheless, a mandate. And, while we understand consumer choice to be the reason behind the mandate, we believe most issues can be resolved through the complaint and appeals process already in the law. Applicants who believe improper decisions have been made or that excessive fees have been charged have avenues for complaint. Those avenues can be made more apparent with the notice requirements proposed in Senate Bill 634.

Again, The League and PSATC continue to oppose the two inspector mandate in Senate Bill 634.

Thank you for your consideration as the bill comes before the Committee.