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**Testimony to Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management  
in support of Int. no 55**

*Board of Directors*

**February 29, 2024**

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**Council Member Shaun Abreu, Chair  
New York City Committee on Sanitation and Waste Management**

My name is Jenille Scott, and I am the Climate Director of ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York. We bring together labor, climate, and community for a more just and sustainable New York, and I am writing as one of the leading organizations of the Transform Don't Trash Coalition fighting for a green economy and better conditions for our state's workers. Thank you to Sanitation committee chair Council Member Shaun Abreu for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

ALIGN strongly supports Intro 55 which requires the Department of Sanitation to accept commercial solid waste at city-owned or operated marine transfer (MTS) stations and city-owned or operated rail transfer stations. The use of marine transfer stations is a more environmentally sound practice than the use of long haul trucks and will reduce truck miles traveled and traffic which creates safer streets for pedestrians and reduces noise issues caused by the current truck based system. Additionally, it will reduce the emission of harmful pollutants which are released in already overburdened communities. This will undoubtedly improve the air quality of these communities and create healthier environments for workers. Marine transfer stations are operated by the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) so there are more stringent requirements for compliance with regulations and labor standards so there are less concerns than with privately owned facilities.

Intro 55 also creates an accountability measure for DSNY in the form of an annual report that should be submitted to the Mayor, Speaker and to be made publicly available online around the acceptance and processing of commercial waste at each transfer station. This further emphasizes the aforementioned point of more stringent compliance requirements for DSNY which will ensure

proper functioning of the facilities and maintenance of cleaner and safer streets for workers and the surrounding communities.

The timing of this bill is significant as progress, although delayed, is being made on the implementation of 20 Commercial Waste Zones (required by Local Law 199) later this year. These commercial waste zones were developed with the intention of creating safer and healthier environments and Intro 55 helps to further the purpose of LL199 . Additionally the 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is nearing expiration and the new 20-year SWMP is due in 2026 so this is a prime opportunity to ensure we develop and implement the 2026 SWMP the right way.

We urge this committee and council to support the passage of Intro. 55 and bring overdo reform to the solid waste management system in New York. Thank you

Jenille Scott

Climate Director