

Garen Sahagian of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Testifies on Legislation Requiring Sellers to Provide Report of Environmental Status of Property

BOSTON, MA...ISSUED OCTOBER 25, 2007...Garen Sahagian, Senior Project Manager for GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc., recently testified at a Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee hearing against two proposed bills (H. 323 & S. 201) that would require property sellers or selling agents to provide a report to homebuyers about environmental conditions concerning the property and adjacent sites within a half-mile radius.

“The intent is good but it misses the mark,” said Sahagian in his testimony. He calls the bills “onerous” and “overly burdensome” to sellers, particularly for residential and small business real estate transactions. Sahagian said it may cost \$100 to \$150 to pay for an environmental database review service to gather all the public information, but it will cost between \$300 and \$1,000 for a consultant to interpret the report so the average homeowner can understand the meaning of the information listed in the report. Sahagian is critical of the mandatory requirement that these “reports” be produced by an “Environmental Expert” for all real estate transactions, including residential, and that the usage and environmental compliance histories of all sites within half a mile radius of a property be researched, estimating that it would lead potentially to hundreds of hours of unnecessary effort. He suggests that prospective buyers already have access to freely available sources of environmental due diligence information, such as research of public records at municipal agencies for land use history that could alert them to potential environmental problems.

“Garen is a seasoned professional who carefully weighs all of the information about an issue before reaching a conclusion. We thank him for using his experience and expertise to bring a clearer understanding of the consequences of this legislation,” said William R. Beloff, President and CEO of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

About GZA

Founded in 1964, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. is a multi-disciplined firm providing environmental consulting, geotechnical and civil engineering, environmental remediation contracting, regulatory compliance, litigation support, air quality, solid waste services, specialty construction, occupational health and safety, and site development services. GZA maintains corporate offices at One Edgewater Drive, Norwood, MA 02062. The firm has more than 500 employees and operates 21 offices, in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes Regions of the United States. For additional information, please call William R. Beloff, CEO at 781-278-3801 or visit the company's website at www.gza.com.