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*Keeping Knives in
American Lives*

March 11, 2014

Via e-mail to: quartd@assembly.state.ny.us

Dan Quart, Assembly Member
State of New York Assembly

RE: 2259-A
Amendment to Penal Law relating to the possession of a gravity knife)

Dear Assembly Member Quart:

The American Knife & Tool Institute (AKTI) heartily endorses the subject Bill you have introduced. As we understand it, the effect of the Amendment would be to remove "gravity knife" from the list of weapons which are prohibited. The Amendment further provides that gravity knife will be added to subsection 265.01(2). The practical effect of the Amendment will be that a person is guilty of criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree if he or she possesses a gravity knife with intent to use the same unlawfully against another.

AKTI is a non-profit (501(c)(6)), representing all segments of the knife industry and the knife community as well.

We believe that the Amendment will be beneficial to all citizens in New York State and that it will provide a penal measure to address criminal intent and criminal use, but allow innocent, well-meaning citizens to carry various folding knives which incorporate technological developments. Many modern folding knives have been wrongfully criminalized under laws reflexively enacted in the 1950's and earlier decades.

The knives which will be removed from the prohibited pro se list are knives that are suitable for ordinary everyday tasks and are not weapons, along with items, such as blackjacks, bludgeons, sand clubs, metal knuckles and other items identified in § 265.01(1).

Please feel free to contact us if you believe that AKTI can be of any assistance

Very truly yours,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director

Daniel C. Lawson, Legal Counsel