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January 26, 2021

New York City Council  
Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises

Good Morning,

My name is Maria Free, and I am the Urban Planning and Policy Analyst for the New York Building Congress. On behalf of the Building Congress, we are proud to support RXR and Titan's mixed-use proposal for 42-11 9th St. At a time of unprecedented economic crisis in our city, this proposal to create thousands of jobs for the residents of Long Island City is critical.

The New York Building Congress has, for a hundred years, advocated for investment in infrastructure, pursued job creation and promoted preservation and growth in the New York City area. Our association is made up of over 550 organizations comprised of more than 250,000 professionals. Through our members, events and various committees, we seek to address the critical issues of the building industry and promote the economic and social advancement of our city and its constituents.

As we strive to recover from one of the most severe disasters in New York's history, this proposal is the right type of investment for Queens to build back even stronger than before. In the short-term, it will add hundreds of new, good-paying construction jobs for local residents. RXR and Titan's workforce program ensures Long Island City residents will benefit from these employment opportunities and will be given the foundation to pursue future careers in skilled trades. Once the building opens, the site will be a hub for over a thousand permanent jobs.

Moreover, this project will preserve manufacturing in the city – adding even more industrial area than what currently exists. By building commercial office space, RXR will be able to offer that industrial space at affordable rents. In turn, industrial companies can employ New Yorkers in high-quality jobs that provide a path to the middle class.

In closing, this proposal is an opportunity to invest in economic recovery by creating jobs for Long Island City residents and strengthening the local economy. The Building Congress strongly supports this project, and we encourage you to do the same.

Thank you.