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**Testimony before the New York City Council  
Committee on Housing and Buildings  
Re: Int 2033-2020**

**November 10, 2020**

Good afternoon,

My name is Maria Free, and I am an Urban Planning and Policy Analyst for the New York Building Congress. The New York Building Congress is proud to support Int 2033-2020.

The New York Building Congress has, for almost 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 consistently promote the economic and social advancement of our city and its constituents.

This bill, which would allow the Department of Buildings to issue interim certificates of occupancy to authorize occupancy of specific floors of a building prior to completion of permitted construction work on the building, will help reduce costs, save time, and add certainty for owners and tenants alike.

Unlike a temporary certificate of occupancy, an interim certificate of occupancy would not expire and would remain in effect until the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the building. By not having to be renewed every 90 days, the new interim certificate of occupancy would reduce owners' paperwork and avoid violations for failing to renew the temporary certificate.

In these unprecedented times, common-sense innovations and the reduction of burdensome regulations like this legislation proposes are exactly what our industry needs to help get New York City back to building. A new interim certificate of occupancy will reduce paperwork and streamline the development process, without diminishing safety. We urge the Council to support this measure.

Thank you for the time to be heard on this important matter.