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Testimony before the New York City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises Regarding Industry City

September 15, 2020

Good morning, I'm Justin Pascone, Director of Policy for the New York Building Congress. The New York Building Congress is proud to support the rezoning plan for Industry City. At a time of unprecedented economic crisis in our city, an investment into our community and our future is needed. This proposal to create thousands of jobs for the residents of Sunset park is critical.

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.

As we strive to recover from one of the most severe disasters in New York's history, assisting and growing MWBEs must be a priority now more than ever before. The New York Building Congress is committed to aiding these companies in every way possible, and we urge the City Council to join us in supporting them by approving Industry City's thoughtful rezoning plan.

Industry City's positive impacts on minority- and women-owned business and their community are not just promises. Over the past six years, they have spent more than \$100 million on local businesses as part of the redevelopment and renovation of their Sunset Park campus, and this has included numerous MWBE contractors and vendors from Sunset Park and across Brooklyn.

Industry City's supportive ecosystem for neighborhood-based minority and women businesses is exactly what our city needs, especially in the wake of historic health and economic crises that have disproportionately affected minority-owned small businesses.

For small businesses in Sunset Park and across the borough, especially minority and women-owned companies, Industry City's future growth and success have become truly essential. On behalf of the New York Building Congress, we urge the City Council to make the right choice for these businesses, for Brooklyn and for all of New York City and approve Industry City's rezoning plan.