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## NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission Testimony Regarding 250 Water Street and 89 South Street

January 5, 2021

Good Afternoon,

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 strongly support the proposals for 250 Water Street and the South Street Seaport Museum.

Since our founding in 1921, the Building Congress has 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 residents.

The Building Congress appreciates the impact of the past on today's urban fabric and believes these applications embody that relationship. The designs both respect South Street Seaport's historic character and allow for its continued evolution. 250 Water Street will complete the prominent streetscape by transforming a parking lot into a contextually appropriate mixed-use development, and the new museum will restore the heart of the historic district.

Moreover, with our city at a critical economic moment, this project will create jobs in construction and operations, create affordable housing for New Yorkers and provide stability for the museum. It will also enliven and strengthen one of the city's first historic districts. The Building Congress proudly supports these proposals and urges the Commission to do the same.

Thank you.