

**Testimony for the New York Building Congress
Delivered before Manhattan Community Board #5 Landmarks Committee
June 28, 2018**

My name is Justin Pascone, and I am the Director of Policy and Research for the New York Building Congress. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak this evening on this important matter you are considering.

On behalf of the Building Congress, I urge you to support the thoughtful application brought before you this evening by Normandy Realty Partners for the building at 888 Broadway and 34-38 East 19th Street.

The New York Building Congress is a nearly one-hundred-year-old organization working to encourage the growth and success of the New York City building industry, and the vibrancy of the City at large. We represent more than 500 constituent organizations employing over a quarter million professionals and tradespeople.

As the retail environment evolves within New York City and more commercial office space is needed, this development represents the appropriate nature of how to reinvigorate a landmark and conform to the evolving needs of New York City's commercial landscape.

The application under consideration this evening clearly demonstrates the time and effort to restore the building as close as conceivably possible to the original form as possible and in many instances, as it relates to both landmarks and security, goes above what is required to bring this building up to code and reposition it as a Class A office building.

It is also worthy to note that ABC Home & Carpet and its restaurants are remaining, an ode to the landmark that has become iconic at this location and is a symbol well known not only within the community, but beyond.

The as-of-right addition upon the roof has been carefully placed so that it will not impact the site lines of the original façade and will be able to meet the market demands as the building converts to office space on the upper floors.

On behalf of the New York Building Congress, the 550 constituent organizations and over a quarter million professionals and tradespeople that we represent, we request the Manhattan Community Board 5 Landmarks Committee approve this application.

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