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NYC Department of City Planning Scoping Meeting Testimony Regarding Project Commodore

December 21, 2020

Good Afternoon,

My name is Maria Free, and I am the Urban Planning and Policy Analyst for the New York Building Congress. The Building Congress is proud to support TF Cornerstone and RXR's proposed redevelopment of the Grand Hyatt. As the city approaches the eleventh month of the COVID-19 pandemic, Project Commodore is a step on the road to recovery.

The New York Building Congress has, for almost 100 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 residents.

Aligned with these objectives, Project Commodore will keep the city's economic engine running. Investment in infrastructure is a proven way to spur job growth amid record unemployment and unprecedented financial hardships. This project will support tens of thousands of construction and permanent jobs and improve Grand Central Terminal and the 42nd Street subway on behalf of the cash-strapped MTA.

As part of the environmental impact statement, the Building Congress would like to see an analysis of Project Commodore's direct and indirect economic impact on job growth and overall economic output. We believe this proposal will help New York build back stronger and cannot wait to see it become a reality.

Thank you.