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January 12, 2018

The Honorable Corey Johnson  
Speaker  
New York City Council  
250 Broadway, Suite 1804  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson:

On behalf of the New York Building Congress, I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of the New York City Council. We hope that as Speaker, you will continue the vital dialogue between public officials and the construction industry, to understand our shared goals, align our priorities, and ultimately, build a better New York.

That is why I will be reaching out to you shortly to discuss the Building Congress' agenda and to hear about your priorities. Please consider this letter as the first step of an ongoing, regular communication between the Building Congress and your leadership. For your reference, I've included the salient points from the New York Building Congress 2018 Agenda for New York:

### **Promote a Five-Borough Infrastructure Investment Strategy**

The Building Congress will promote ambitious projects that improve mobility, economic opportunity, and growth throughout New York City and the region. The Building Congress will work with local stakeholders and industry experts to define neighborhoods, industries and infrastructure needs that have been overlooked and provide true opportunities for investment.

### **Ensure Robust Capital Spending by The City Of New York**

Recent years have seen the City make unprecedented levels of investment to protect, maintain and expand its network of schools, libraries, hospitals, parks, roads and bridges, water and sewer systems, and other core components that make the City livable. It is critical the City continue to make similar levels of investment in 2018 and demonstrate a longer-term commitment in its 10 - Year Strategy, as the population continues grow and the economy expands

**Expand Project-Based STEAM Education**

The Building Industry is facing a shortage of design and construction professionals, and diversity within its ranks. A variety of excellent Project-Based STEAM learning programs supported by the New York Building Foundation, the charitable arm of the Building Congress, are educating and training the next generation of design and construction professionals inside New York's public schools and beyond.

**Improve the City's MWBE Program**

The Building Congress supports the full engagement of emerging businesses in the City's capital program. However, the City must improve MWBE capacity-building programs and provide additional resources to ensure meaningful inclusion and development of MWBE firms can take place.

**Make the New York City Capital Program More Efficient**

The Building Congress will continue to work closely with City officials to make meaningful improvements to procurement practices to speed projects into construction, and improve management during construction and closeout to avoid delays, scope changes and speed payment.

The Building Congress will also encourage the City to prepare and present a more transparent capital budget.

Working together, the building industry and government can advance meaningful policy changes that foster economic growth and opportunity for all. I look forward to doing this important work with you in the years to come.

Very Truly Yours,



Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.  
President & CEO  
New York Building Congress

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