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September 10, 2003

The Honorable George E. Pataki
Governor of the State of New York
The Executive Chamber
Capitol
Albany, NY 12224The Honorable Joseph L. Bruno
Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 909
Albany, NY 12224The Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12224

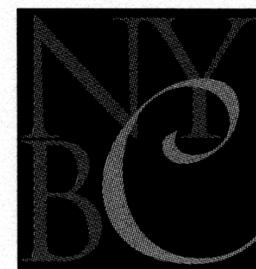
Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the New York Building Congress, a coalition of New York City businesses and associations in the design, construction and real estate industry. We wish to express our concerns over delays in appropriating the funds necessary to move forward with critical capital improvements to academic facilities at campuses throughout the State and City University systems.

We in the building community commend you for including appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2004 budget to pay for a host of SUNY hospital and dormitory capital projects, as well as for capital improvements to community college facilities operated by both the SUNY and CUNY systems.

The deferral, however, in funding key capital projects at SUNY and CUNY senior college campuses is impeding necessary physical upgrades to institutions that serve more than 300,000 students statewide.

The City and State's educational facilities have long been major contributors to the region's long-term economy and fundamental to its quality of life. If New York State is to remain a healthy environment for

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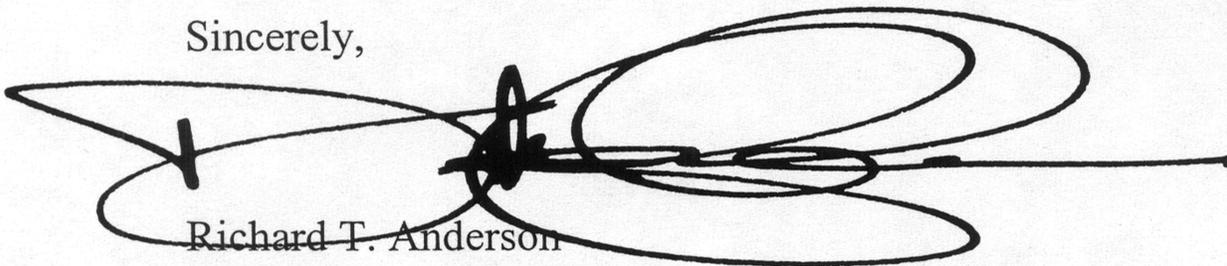
business growth, we must prepare the next generation of leaders to meet the diverse challenges of the 21st Century marketplace. We cannot accomplish this without a firm commitment to continuously modernize our higher-education facilities.

The key to any sound multi-year capital program is predictability in the budgetary process. Therefore, the Executive and Legislative branches must work diligently to ensure the maintenance of annual funding levels necessary to support strategic long-term rehabilitation and expansion programs designed to improve health and safety, technology infrastructure and overall quality of life on all SUNY and CUNY campuses.

Further, delay in appropriating capital funds to worthwhile projects robs the economy of the stimulus that is provided through the creation of construction industry jobs. At present, the industry is operating at less-than-full capacity, especially in markets such as educational infrastructure. Now is exactly the right time to be building.

We urge you to make the swift review and approval of financing for SUNY and CUNY campuses one of your immediate priorities.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard T. Anderson
President
New York Building Congress