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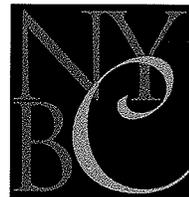
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NEW YORK
BUILDING
CONGRESS

VIA FAX AND OVERNIGHT MAIL

January 7, 2009

Ms. Amanda M. Burden
Chair
New York City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007-1216

Dear Ms. Burden,

Amanda

On behalf of the New York Building Congress, I am writing to endorse the Department of City Planning's Draft Scope of Work for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement ("SEIS") on the proposed modification to the previously-approved Riverside South project. The project sponsor, CRP/Extell Parcel L, LP and CRP/Extell Parcel N, LP, ("Extell"), seeks a number of discretionary actions by the City Planning Commission concerning Parcels L, M and N, known as Riverside Center, in the southernmost portion of Riverside South ("Proposed Project"). The Draft Scope of Work is thoughtful, well prepared and appropriately proposes to examine the differences between the programs and site plans for Parcels L, M and N as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Riverside South and in the current Proposed Project.

The Building Congress commends Extell on its Proposed Project, which improves upon the original plan for Riverside South and will continue the transformation of an underused swathe of land on the far West Side into a vibrant complex of mixed-use buildings and privately-owned, publicly-accessible open space. The Proposed Project wisely focuses on substantial residential development and includes school, hotel and auto service uses, while excluding the office, professional office and studio uses contemplated in the original plan for this project area. In addition, the Proposed Project would incorporate provisions in the form of a Restrictive Declaration or Special Permit to ensure that no "big-box" retail establishments would be included as part of the Proposed Project. The Building Congress is particularly supportive of these changes, having long believed Riverside South to be better suited to residential rather than commercial development. The proposed changes are further enhanced, moreover, by Extell's commitment to design excellence, with a master plan for the Proposed Project by esteemed architect Christian de Portzamparc and green spaces designed by renowned landscape architect Signe Nielsen.

City Planning Commission Chair Amanda M. Burden

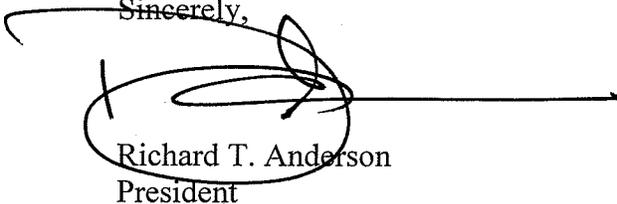
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Among the most compelling features of the Proposed Project are the considerable economic benefits that would be realized from its construction, particularly at a time when New York City will need economic stimulus. In its recent edition of *Construction Outlook*, the New York Building Congress reports that almost 30,000 construction jobs could be stripped from New York City's construction workforce by 2010. Notably, Extell expects to begin construction in 2010, pumping jobs and spending into the City at a critical juncture in its economic recovery. Over the nine-year build out, construction of the project is projected to generate an estimated \$627 million in direct wages and salaries and \$895 million in indirect wages and salaries in New York City, and the total effect on the local economy, measured as economic output or demand, is estimated at \$3 billion in New York City and \$4 billion in New York State. The long-term prospects also are promising, as total permanent employment at the completed project is projected at 954 full-time and part-time jobs, and total employment in New York City from the operation of Riverside Center is estimated at 1,297 jobs.

Given these economic benefits, the Building Congress urges timely completion of the SEIS and a swift approval process that will pave the way for shovels to be in the ground at Riverside Center in 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. The signature is written over the name and title of the sender.

Richard T. Anderson
President

cc: The Honorable Gail Brewer, New York City Council
The Honorable Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
New York City Council Land Use Committee
New York City Council Zoning & Franchises Committee