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November 26, 2012

Mr. Nicholas D. Viest

Chair

Community Board 8

505 Park Avenue, Suite #620

New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Viest:

As a membership coalition serving the design, construction and real estate industry, the New York Building Congress is pleased to offer its support for Cornell University's ambitious and important Roosevelt Island Campus project.

As part of its economic development strategy, the City has wisely placed a strong emphasis on an ambitious expansion of higher education institutions. In order to accentuate New York's existing assets as a leader in research, education, and high-tech sector growth, schools including Cornell, Columbia, and New York University and others have been encouraged to make transformational investments in their infrastructure. A few years from now, new and expanded campuses will offer world class facilities to attract the best and brightest minds and facilitate learning.

Cornell is a lynchpin of this high-tech strategy.

First, as a driver of job creation, construction of Cornell's new Roosevelt Island campus will create thousands of construction jobs and tens of thousands of permanent jobs across the economic spectrum. The direct economic impact of this project is counted in the billions of dollars. These contributions are critical to the City's continued growth and vitality.

But the longer-term impact Cornell will have on the City as a hub for the increasingly important high-tech sector is perhaps more significant.

The world economy is increasingly reliant on high tech industries. Cornell, working with State and local government and civic leaders is a response to this evolution. Investments in high tech education, research and investment moves the City away from a reliance on the financial sector to the economy of the future.

What's more, Cornell will be educating much of the talent that ends up entering and then leading the high-tech fields. Cornell's new campus is therefore a critical link in the cycle of education, innovation and economic development.

New York City has made significant strides in the last decade to diversify the workforce. The City must now take the next step by expanding investment in synergistic

The Building Congress urges the Community Board to approve and support Cornell's proposed campus on Roosevelt Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard T. Anderson', written over the typed name and title.

Richard T. Anderson
President