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NEW YORK
BUILDING
CONGRESS

May 15, 2008

The Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor, State of New York
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

On behalf of the New York Building Congress, I want to express our support of a letter from the Developers Brownfield Alliance (DBA), which was delivered to you on May 1.

In that letter and the position statement accompanying it, the DBA articulates its concerns over amendments to the Brownfields Cleanup Program (BCP) and brownfields tax credits (BTCs) that have been proposed in your recently-released Program Bill No. 51. As the DBA explains, these proposed amendments, which mirror those proposed in former Governor Spitzer's Budget Bill Part E, would greatly reduce the BTCs from their current level and effect other changes that would make participation in the program more difficult, significantly diminishing private investment in the redevelopment of brownfields.

We share the DBA's concerns that well-intended reforms, which may be aimed at making the existing program more effective and fair, will have the opposite effect, eliminating a critical incentive to develop contaminated sites and put them into productive use. At a time when New York seeks to stimulate economic activity statewide, efforts should be made instead to increase interest and participation in a program that produces a cleaner environment while generating jobs and tax revenue.

As an added benefit, creating a more attractive BCP could help expand New York City's scarce supply of land and contribute to reducing construction costs in the City, which have been escalating at a rate of approximately one percent per month. In fact, because land costs are accelerating more than any other factor, an upcoming Building Congress publication on the rising costs of construction in New York City recognizes the urgent need to maximize the use and availability of sites and, as one potential step toward accomplishing that goal, recommends that the State and City

The Honorable David A. Paterson

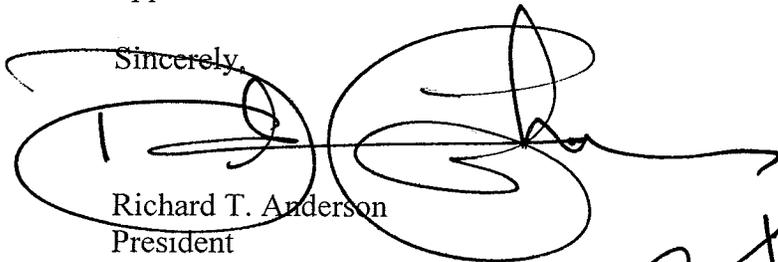
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promote remediation of brownfields. We look forward to sharing that report with you in June.

In the meantime, we encourage you, working with the Legislature, to explore alternatives – like those proposed by the DBA – to improve the BCP and ensure that the right incentives are in place to make the remediation and redevelopment of brownfields a reality, and not examples of lost economic and environmental opportunities.

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

Best regards