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February 8, 2011

Department of Transportation, Docket Management Facility
West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Docket Number USCG-2010-0993

To Whom It May Concern:

The New York Building Congress appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposed Liberty Natural Gas project, a floating liquefied natural gas storage and re-gasification facility to be located in federal waters near New York Harbor. The Building Congress urges the Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration to proceed within a well-defined and controlled EIS scope that permits the safe and sensible expansion of the region's energy supply.

The Building Congress is a broad coalition of the design, construction and real estate industry. Part of our mission is to support sound public policy. Our Energy Committee has carefully studied the issue of power supply and generation in the region and has urged policymakers to ensure reliability, affordability and diversity in our energy portfolio.

The New York City region pays some of the highest energy rates in the nation. Environmental and policy challenges add to these costs by constraining the siting of new facilities and threatening the viability current supplies. In the face of these challenges, population growth and a return to a positive economic climate drive demand for new sources power.

We must therefore continue to diversify our energy supply. Since natural gas is a much cleaner burning fuel than coal or oil, increasing our use of this cleaner fuel will improve our air quality. Other alternative sources are also under consideration, but they too face considerable challenges before they can be realized.

The realization of the Liberty Natural Gas project can help address the region's growing energy demand using a clean, safe energy source. As the USCG and MARA consider project impacts, it should therefore weigh the environmental benefits of using clean LNG and encouraging an increasing percentage of LNG as part of the region's energy mix.

Sincerely,
Richard T. Anderson
President, New York Building Congress
44 W. 28th St. 12th Floor
New York, NY 10001