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LESTER O. WUERFL JR.

January 12, 2010

Mr. John L. Sampson  
Democratic Conference Leader  
409 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Sampson:

At this moment of considerable uncertainty about the State's fiscal outlook, the New York Building Congress continues to urge you and your colleagues in the State Legislature to invest in a strong capital program. Given the short- and long-term economic benefits of infrastructure investment, the Legislature has an opportunity to allocate scarce resources in a way that will create thousands of quality jobs in a variety of critical sectors.

For example, the CUNY capital budget contains several projects, including the construction of a major "shovel ready" expansion of its City Tech campus in downtown Brooklyn, that remain underfunded. Appropriating resources here will have an immediate impact: construction can begin on this project quickly, creating jobs in a labor sector with one of the highest unemployment rates. Bringing new spending to Downtown Brooklyn's stores, restaurants and service providers will also have demonstrable impacts. Finally, this project will create an important facility of higher education that provides practical education and training for the workforce of tomorrow.

This is but one example of the type of investment New York State needs at this critical juncture. While we cannot simply spend our way out of this recession, infrastructure spending provides precisely the kind of high return-on-investment using a stable source of revenues – the bond market – that allows us to control costs while investing in the economy. Furthermore, we believe now is the time to look at new financing tools as outlined in the State Asset Management Commission Report to help assist this effort.

As you begin the difficult process of crafting the State's annual budget, the Building Congress urges the Legislature and the Governor to make prudent, long term investments in our State through infrastructure spending.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Anderson  
President

Best regards



NEW YORK  
BUILDING  
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January 12, 2010

The Honorable Sheldon Silver  
New York State Assembly Speaker  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Silver:

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