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June 8, 2011

Mr. Robert Holbrook
New York City Economic Development Corporation
110 William St.
New York, NY 10038

RE: Hearing on Willets Point Van Wyck Expressway Access Ramps

Dear Mr. Holbrook:

This letter is submitted in lieu of testimony at the New York City Economic Development Corporation public hearing on the proposed Van Wyck Expressway access ramps connecting to the Willets Point redevelopment project.

As the City's most diverse coalition of the design, construction and real estate industry, the New York Building Congress is committed to promoting well-planned development that improves the City's economic health and quality of life. We endorse the City's efforts to plan and construct new ramps from the Van Wyck Expressway to connect to the proposed Willets Point redevelopment site.

The Bloomberg Administration has encouraged economic growth outside Manhattan's central business districts through a strategy of rezoning, targeted infrastructure investments and redevelopment of strategic City real estate assets. The redevelopment of Willets Point uses all three of these tools.

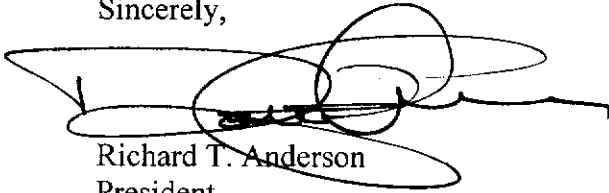
New infrastructure is particularly essential to the success of this project. Without significant improvements to water and sewer services, soil and subsurface conditions, roads and transportation networks, the redevelopment of Willets Point is practically impossible.

The on-ramps and exit ramps contemplated in the Environmental Assessment will provide many of the primary points of access to a redeveloped Willets Point. Several hundred vehicles will enter and leave the site at peak hours using these ramps. There is insufficient capacity on the existing road network to accommodate this volume.

Moreover, the economic viability of the project depends on more road access to accommodate the several million square feet of development planned for this neighborhood. Without new access, users will be cut off from entering Willets Point, choking the economic vitality of the district.

For these reasons, we urge the City to proceed with planning and construction of new access ramps from the Van Wyck Expressway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard T. Anderson". The signature is highly stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. It is positioned above the printed name and title.

Richard T. Anderson
President