

**TESTIMONY OF ANDREW S. HOLLWECK, VICE PRESIDENT, NEW YORK BUILDING CONGRESS
AT A HEARING OF THE NEW YORK CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
REGARDING THE CORNELL NYC TECH CAMPUS ON ROOSEVELT ISLAND
FEBRUARY 6, 2013**



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 NYC Tech Campus project on Roosevelt Island.

For the last decade, the City has pursued an economic development strategy emphasizing economic diversification, most evident in its support for expansion of the City's major higher education institutions. This effort has helped accentuate New York's existing assets as a leader in research, education, and high-tech research and encouraged a wave of investment in new, world class facilities to attract the best and brightest minds and facilitate learning and collaboration in these fields.

Cornell is a lynchpin of this strategy.

Even before its completion, construction of Cornell's new Roosevelt Island campus will create thousands of construction jobs. As it comes on line, thousands of permanent jobs across the economic spectrum will boost employment and opportunity at all skill levels.

But it is the longer-term impact this project will have, making the City a hub for high-tech research and investment, that makes this project truly transformational. The new campus will create a "virtuous circle," educating the talent, fostering collaboration and investment, and finally the creation and support of technology and related businesses, that will undergird the City's economy for years to come.

The Commission is considering several land use actions today necessary to build Cornell's new Roosevelt Island campus. These include the mapping of new roads, permitting new academic, commercial and residential uses, the creation of a special district and other actions.

This visionary plan requires a commensurate change to the City's landscape, embodied by these actions.

The Building Congress therefore urges the Commission to approve Cornell's application so that it can proceed on development of its Roosevelt Island campus.