

**Testimony of
Andrew Hollweck
Vice President
New York Building Congress
at a meeting of the
Landmarks Preservation Commission**



**Regarding
Modifications to the Pier 17 Redevelopment
by the Howard Hughes Corporation**

August 4, 2015

The New York Building Congress supports the Howard Hughes Corporation's proposal for Pier 17 before the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

While hewing to its mandate to protect New York's historic buildings, the LPC should be able to permit the common sense modifications proposed by the Howard Hughes Corporation today. The proposal improves the South Street Seaport neighborhood while thoughtfully retaining key elements of its historic architecture and character.

The context for this project is important: Howard Hughes Corporation's rejuvenation of Pier 17 establishes a major new destination for Lower Manhattan, adding retail, entertainment, restaurants, and exceptional open space. While the financial district has changed substantially as tourism and residential projects have flourished, amenities have not kept pace. This project answers a desperate need for an anchor development in the area that encourages leisure activities and draws the public through the neighborhood and gives them a venue to congregate and relax.

The rooftop canopy is a useful and attractive element to this proposal. While we understand that economic development is not LPC's primary mandate, the Commission should consider that the rooftop will create a viable year-round destination, enliven Pier 17, and generate new economic activity. We believe that

LPC can justifiably permit this construction without impacting the character of the nearby historic structures.

The Building Congress urges LPC's approval of the the Howard Hughes Corporation's proposed modifications to Pier 17. The project is thoughtfully designed and will become an important new destination for Lower Manhattan, offering critical public spaces, while thoughtfully highlighting its important historic surroundings.

Thank you.