

**Submitted Testimony of Andrew S. Hollweck
Vice President, New York Building Congress
At a hearing of Empire State Development on the
Atlantic Yards Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
April 30, 2014**

Good evening. The New York Building Congress urges an expedited review and completion of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Atlantic Yards to avoid further delay to this transformative project.

The review should be quickly completed so that Atlantic Yards can continue to deliver important benefits to Brooklyn and New York City. When Forest City Ratner completed Barclays Center Arena – the first major component of Atlantic Yards – the surrounding neighborhood felt immediate economic impacts as new businesses and jobs sprung up around the stadium. Even prior to its completion, the thousands of construction jobs and the indirect economic activity they spurred helped revive an underutilized and underdeveloped part of Brooklyn.

As Forest City progresses on its first affordable residential building, a second wave of construction jobs has arrived, with huge benefits to local residents who are working at Forest City's fabrication facility thanks to a landmark agreement engineered with the City's construction unions.

What's more, hundreds of affordable housing units will soon be available, with thousands more to come. B2 – as the housing project is known – is also a landmark structure. Using modular construction, much of B2 is built off-site in a factory, allowing Forest City to deliver the building with dramatically reduced noise and other impacts on the immediate community found with a typical construction project.

When complete, Atlantic Yards will provide over 6,400 residential units and hundreds of thousands of square feet of commercial space, bringing new real estate and sales taxes to government coffers, and additional new jobs and economic activity in the neighborhood.

Given the project's indisputable benefits, we encourage an expedited review and approval of the Draft EIS so that Atlantic Yards can move forward. Barring major changes to the development program, this should also be the final environmental review for this project. Forest City has been subjected to unending litigation and document preparation related to this litigation. This SEIS is only the latest tome to be produced because of a lawsuit.

It is critical that we do not put any more restraints on this project. Atlantic Yards is too important to our economy and essential to allowing the City to address the urgent affordable housing shortage our Mayor is making his top priority.

Thank you.