

**TESTIMONY OF ANDREW S. HOLLWECK, VICE PRESIDENT, NEW YORK BUILDING CONGRESS  
AT A HEARING OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
REGARDING GREENPOINT LANDING  
DECEMBER 5, 2013**

As a membership coalition serving the design, construction and real estate industry, the New York Building Congress is pleased to support the land use applications enabling Greenpoint Landing's ambitious proposal to proceed.

The City Council's approval of this project is an opportunity to encourage the continued resurgence of the building industry and the broader New York City economy.

The Building Congress recently reported that the residential construction market, which came to a near standstill with the recession, was steadily improving and was forecast to return to pre-recession levels in the coming years. At the bottom of the market just a few years ago, thousands of construction jobs disappeared, and are only slowly returning. Projects lay unfinished throughout the City, representing billions of dollars of dormant economic activity.

The rebound has benefitted not just the building industry, but has been an essential component of the City's overall economic recovery. Greenpoint Landing is an integral part of this story of recovery. But that's not all: it will also create hundreds of units of affordable housing in addition to a new elementary school, several acres of parkland and other public open spaces.

There is more important context to this project: the Building Congress has mounted an extensive Infrastructure Campaign, that urges continued investment in the City's core systems to allow the City to thrive in the coming century. Greenpoint Landing is an essential part of this project as well: the City's population grew by nearly ONE MILLION people in the last twenty years and could grow by ONE MILLION more in the next thirty years. Even before this population explosion, the City has been in an official housing emergency for a century.

Increasing density in neighborhoods with good transportation access, open space, developable land, and opportunities for school construction and the creation of amenities to meet a growing population are limited. While we must proceed rationally and follow through on the creation of those amenities to serve a diverse population, the City must take advantage of key locations in the City capable of accommodating the phenomenal growth and success the City has seen.

Much of the project does not require further public review. The disposition of City-owned properties and the associated modifications to the Zoning Resolution being discussed today is for fulfillment of the project's most important goals: affordable housing creation, a new public school and the creation of

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**Regarding Greenpoint Landing**

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public open space. The core infrastructure which is so urgently needed for the City to retain its position as a global leader.

We urge the Council to approve this project so that these important goals can be realized. Thank you.