



*Louis J. Coletti*  
President & CEO

**BTEA: NEW YORK'S ALLIANCE OF UNION CONTRACTORS**

1430 Broadway, Suite 1106 • New York, NY 10018 • [www.bteany.com](http://www.bteany.com)

Telephone: 212 704 9745 • Facsimile: 212 704 4367

**TESTIMONY**

**PRESENTED TO THE**

**NEW YORK CITY PLANNING COMMISSION**

**FLUSHING COMMONS**

May 12, 2010

Presented by  
James Coletti  
Building Trades Employers' Association  
Vice President



Good Morning.

My name is James Coletti and I am the Vice President of the Building Trades Employers' Association (BTEA), an organization representing 28 union contractor associations and over 1,800 construction managers, general contractors, and specialty trade contractors doing business in New York City. The BTEA employs 25,000 project managers and support staff as well as the 100,000 skilled members of the building trades union in NYC.

The BTEA is testifying today in support of the Flushing Commons project.

The construction industry has been shaken by the recession and currently has a 40% unemployment rate, and is expected to rise over the next few months.

There are 3 major reasons why this project deserves your approval:

1. It will create jobs and reduce unemployment, especially for Queens's residents. From July 1, 2001-September 30, 2009, 21% of the new union apprentices enrolled in our Construction Skills program came from Queens. Approval of this project will create jobs for out-of-work apprentices and

create new openings for those who want a career as a skilled tradesperson by creating 2,600 new jobs;

2. It will create new city tax revenue from which it can pay for municipal services such as police, fire, sanitation and education. The lack of tax revenue is creating severe cutbacks in all of these areas today;
3. Finally, it will improve the community with a new YMCA, 36,000 square feet of a community facility and a 1.5 acre public outdoor open space. The Flushing Commons project will also create 1,900 permanent jobs for Queens's residents.

I hope the City Planning Commission takes into consideration the benefits the Flushing Commons project offers to NYC and moves it forward for approval.

Thank you.