



Louis J. Coletti
President & CEO

BTEA: NEW YORK'S ALLIANCE OF UNION CONTRACTORS
1430 Broadway, Suite 1106 • New York, NY 10018 • www.bteany.com
Telephone: 212 704 9745 • Facsimile: 212 704 4367

TESTIMONY

PRESENTED IN SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT

15 PENN PLAZA

PRESENTED TO THE

NY CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

22 Reade Street, New York, NY

May 26, 2010

Presented by
Louis Coletti
Building Trades Employers' Association
President & CEO



Good Morning.

My name is Louis Coletti and I am the President & CEO 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 strongly supports the application of Vornado to build a new commercial tower at 15 Penn Plaza.

The architectural firm of Pelli Clarke Pelli has designed two beautiful alternative towers that would be an iconic addition to the City skyline. The construction of either tower would be a catalyst to the revitalization of the Penn Station area due to the many, much-needed transit improvements that are included as a part of the proposed development.

It is an understatement to point out that New York City is in need of a strong development proposal at this moment in time. Clearly, Vornado has “thought big” in bringing forth this application and the economic benefits it will generate - just as the developers of the Chrysler and Empire State Buildings thought big in the boom years of the ‘20’s and built during the Great Depression.

Some naysayers will argue that a tenant will never be found for such a big building. New Yorkers, and particularly this Administration, are anticipating the future needs of our great City. Right now it is unclear what new financial and commercial industries will emerge from this recession but they will emerge and will need Class A office space.

We know that there is a need to prepare for this new global economy. Vornado clearly understands this need to plan and get ready to execute NOW!

Some will argue that the construction industry will support ANY proposed development merely to create construction jobs. I want to make clear that the construction industry is an intrinsic part of this City’s life and economy. We live here: 84% of the construction trades workforce lives in the five boroughs. We

educate our children here and we want them to be able to live and work here in the future.

We also educate future construction trades workers here: as of September 2009, the Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills, Inc. has placed 1,110 of its participants into union apprenticeship programs sponsored by union affiliates of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York. Fifty-one percent of these young people are African-American and 35% are Hispanic.

They live here, too – all graduates of NYC public high schools. And they want to continue to live here and raise their families here. Many of them will fill the nearly 1,100 construction jobs that the \$1.6 billion Vornado project will generate.

Our industry is part of the core middle-class of this City. We take pride in our City and pride in our work. That's why we support quality, innovative projects that "think big" and "think future" such as the proposed project for 15 Penn Plaza.

Thank you.