



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**

**EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEDURE LAW**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WILLETS POINT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Queens Borough Public Library  
41-17 Main Street

March 2, 2011

Presented by  
James L. Coletti  
Building Trades Employers' Association  
Vice President



Good Afternoon.

My name is James Coletti and I am the Vice President of the Building Trades Employers' Association (BTEA), an organization representing 27 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 New York City.

New York City has reached a pivotal stage during these economic times. The redevelopment of Willets Point will be vital part that will shape the future of the city that will move it in the right direction.

Willets Point is more than just a redevelopment plan; it is a long term vision. It will clean up the environment, improve the quality of nearby waterways, provide basic infrastructure and establish a mixed-use neighborhood that will create permanent jobs and recapture billions in city spending.

The overall redevelopment plan will bring many more positive aspects to Queens and New York City as a whole. In these challenging economic times, it will create over 5,000 permanent jobs and 18,000 construction jobs. It is expected to generate

approximately \$1.3 billion in direct tax revenue and at least \$25 billion in economic activity that the City will need over the next 30 years.

We urge you to move forward with Phase 1 of this project in order to make these benefits a reality. The approximately 20-acres slated for Phase 1 will include housing, retail space, a hotel, parking and 2 acres of open space. Most importantly, starting Phase 1 of the project will create 3,160 construction jobs at time when our industry needs them most.

With **30% unemployment** in the construction industry, New York City's middle class is struggling to maintain their basic living needs. With budget cuts being made to capital plans for various state and city agencies, and the lack of lending for private development projects, the construction industry needs jobs now.

This project will allow Willets Point to become the new central hub for businesses and local residents while at the same time creating long term jobs for middle class residents of New York City.

Thank you.