Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

Over the past 99 years, the New York Building Congress and our members have been committed to promoting the growth and success of the building industry in New York City, focusing on economic and infrastructure investment, job creation and professional exchange. After every crisis our region has faced, including September 11th and Superstorm Sandy, the building industry has rushed to those in need and helped rebuild communities.

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the current health crisis we face are no different. Our members are currently at work constructing the expanded hospitals and facilities necessary to treat the flood of patients. Our thoughts are with those personally affected by the virus and our frontline responders at this time. In addition, we wish to extend our gratitude to you for your leadership in addressing this crisis.

As Congress considers additional legislation to stimulate the economy, the New York Building Congress urges you to include significant investment in 21st century infrastructure to prepare this country for the challenges ahead. Investing in infrastructure is a proven way to creating good-paying, local jobs and spur additional economic growth. This includes investment in roads, bridges, tunnels and mass transit, as well as hospitals, schools, affordable housing and other public buildings.

We must empower New York State and City agencies to be the drivers of the recovery effort with significant federal investment. Entities like the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and our local agencies—which have a track record of delivering critical infrastructure projects on time and under budget—will need to be given the resources and tools to rapidly develop projects and put the country back to work.

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510
Investing now is an opportunity to advance once-in-a-lifetime projects, like the Gateway Tunnels, a fully reimagined Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and the completion of the entirety of the Second Avenue Subway, that will create hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions in additional economic growth across our region.

This initiative should complement and strengthen existing tools to successfully deliver infrastructure investments at the federal, state and city levels. Any stimulus package should also facilitate opportunities for private investment in U.S. infrastructure and create efficiencies by accelerating the federal permitting process.

In times of trouble, our country has historically invested in infrastructure – from the restorative effects of the New Deal to the industrial boom that followed World War II. As we look ahead to the coming uncertainty, we should be ready to invest in proven job creators and the socio-economic bedrock that is our infrastructure.

On behalf of our members, who build all over our country, we appreciate your consideration and your continued commitment to investing in our national infrastructure.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President & CEO
New York Building Congress