

**Testimony of Justin Pascone, Director of Policy and Research
New York Building Congress
Hearing on 110 East 16th Street
City Council Subcommittee on Zoning
September 17th, 2018**

Good Morning. My name is Justin Pascone, Director of Policy and Planning for the New York Building Congress and I am pleased to express our strong support for Tishman Realty and their project on 110 East 16th Street. The New York Building Congress has, for almost a hundred years, advocated for investment in infrastructure, pursued job creation and promoted outstanding projects, like this one, in the New York City area.

Our association is made up over 550 organizations, comprising more than 250,000 professionals. Through our members, events and various committees, we seek to address the critical issues of the construction industry and consistently promote the economic and social advancement of our city and its constituents.

The project site is an ideal location for higher density development given its proximity to public transit, premier parks and retail. As our city continues to experience significant growth, we need to be mindful of where and how we accommodate the influx of residents and businesses. The project promotes walkability and significantly reduces reliance on automobiles, therefore making it a model of development that should exist near transit hubs across the city.

Further, Tishman has worked with the architect Morris Adjmi to design an attractive, contextually appropriate building for the neighborhood. Not only will it blend with the historic features nearby, it will preserve the integrity of Union Square by responding to the height and context of the surrounding buildings.

Tishman has put an enormous amount of thought into this project to ensure it is truly an added benefit to the community and has actively engaged with community stakeholders to be as sensitive as possible to all concerns. This opinion was echoed by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in their January approval.

Finally, the project brings a long-term commitment to the maintenance and health of the Lee Strasburg Theater at 111 15th Street, giving back to the preservation of New York City's rich architectural history.

In closing, the New York Building Congress strongly urges this Board for approval of the permit application.