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January 26, 2021

**Council Member Francisco Moya**  
Chairman of Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises  
Committee on Land Use  
New York City Council

Dear Chairman Moya,

Urban Upbound has been working with RXR and Titan since 2018. They first reached out to us to discuss a workforce development partnership. Since then, the scope of our partnership has grown, and RXR has continued to support Urban Upbound's mission and work in the Long Island City community.

Through Urban Upbound's workforce development program, we will identify 100 local residents – prioritizing Queensbridge residents – who will receive 30-hour OSHA training, 8-hour fall prevention, 2-hour drug and alcohol awareness, and other soft skills and support. Furthermore, we will also identify a subset of participants who will receive further training in the skilled trades from LaGuardia Community College. RXR is working with its contractors to support this effort of local hiring for the project.

In addition to the workforce development program, Urban Upbound supports the incubation and growth of local businesses and workers cooperatives. One of the workers cooperatives that we have launched was OnPoint Security, a Queensbridge-based workers cooperative. To make sure of the inclusion of local businesses in the project, RXR reached out to us about the potential to hire OnPoint Security to provide job-site security for the duration of the project.

We are excited to see the potential partnerships and investment in job creation here in Long Island City. Rather than building more apartments, this project will create thousands of new industrial and office jobs right here in our community.

Sincerely,

**Bishop Mitchell Taylor**  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Urban Upbound



**TESTIMONY FROM THE ASSOCIATION FOR A BETTER NEW YORK  
SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING & FRANCHISES OF THE LAND USE COMMITTEE OF  
THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL REGARDING 42-11 9<sup>th</sup> STREET INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS INCENTIVE AREA**

JANUARY 26, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Association for a Better New York (ABNY). My name is Laura Colacurcio, and I am the Vice President of ABNY.

The Association for a Better New York (ABNY) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the healthy growth and renewal of New York City's people, businesses, and communities. We are a 50-year-old civic organization representing corporations, nonprofits, unions, government authorities, and educational, cultural, and health institutions. We strive to promote connections between the public and private sectors to make New York City a better place to live, work, and visit for all.

As ABNY focuses on the city's inclusive and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are eager to support projects that create opportunities for New Yorkers to access good jobs with livable wages that allow for career development and economic mobility and wealth. This is more important than ever given the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on historically low-income and disenfranchised communities. These communities, and all of New York City, must continue to receive investment to ensure that the city will ultimately recover from this financial crisis.

As proposed, RXR and Titan's mixed-use project at 42-11 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Long Island City will create more than 1,000 permanent jobs in Queens. The project will also create hundreds of construction jobs, and the developers have demonstrated their commitment to ensuring that Long Island City residents benefit from these opportunities through workforce development programs with local organizations like Urban Upbound that will provide certificate training to 100 local residents, 30 of which will receive more intensive training at LaGuardia Community College. This could make all the difference for members of the Queens community who have been impacted by the pandemic and are looking for work and training that allow them to develop a career.

ABNY's Chief Executive Officer, Melva M. Miller, has personal experience seeing countless projects chip away at the industrial cores of Queens, rather than strengthen them. It is rare to see a project that not only preserves, but actually expands, the space available for manufacturing and other industrial uses in the community. Additionally, unlike other projects, this is a unique development that does not involve government-subsidized rent, but instead employs a new and innovative model to preserve industrial space by using the office space rents to keep the rent of the industrial space affordable.

This project provides a means to protect Long Island City's "makers" character, create more than 1,000 good jobs accessible to Queens residents, and represents a much-needed investment in the revitalization of Queens post-COVID-19.

For these reasons, ABNY supports RXR and Titan's proposal at 42-11 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

Thank you.