

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL & REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

MASSACHUSETTS • MAINE

*Local 7*

A.F.L.-C.I.O.

NEW HAMPSHIRE • VERMONT

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December 14, 2015

Dear Mr. McGuire:

I write in support of the first two phases of the **Government Center Garage Redevelopment** project, which The HYM Investment Group ("HYM") recently submitted for public review. I respectfully submit we are facing a defining moment and a crossroads for what is, without equivocation, a blighted building in what could be one of the most vibrant sections of the greatest city in the United States.

I envision being able to drive up Congress Street without having to drive under the after-effects (in some, yet not all realms) of a different and oft-unsightly era of architecture, development, and construction. I'm conflicted because I have a difficult time reconciling that Boston could build iconic and attractive structures such as the Hancock Building—in the midst of a truly historic area of Boston—while simultaneously assembling ugly concrete structures on some of the most valuable lots of land throughout the City.

Over time, many of these similar and unsightly concrete structures have been replaced with thoughtful projects, and that brings me full-circle. Connecting Government Center, the North End, and the Bullfinch Triangle into a truly contiguous and vibrant area is the primary goal of the *Government Center Garage Redevelopment* project. These first two proposed phases – a 45-story residential tower, and a 43-story office tower which includes removal of the Garage that spans over Congress Street—renders it worthy of your careful consideration and ultimate approval.

From my perspective, as the representative of over 3,100 ironworkers, it is the thousands of construction jobs that will be created, as my members create a vital tax base when employed; as well as a boon to locally located businesses, large and small, which rely on the reinvestment of earned income from construction-industry workers temporarily plying their trade in any given area. Please also be mindful that I speak only for my trade and there are approximately fifteen other trades who are similarly situated.

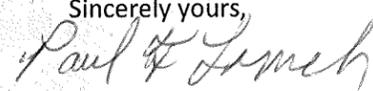
Every year, Local 7 welcomes new men and women into our apprenticeship program, many of them Boston residents. We need bold jobsites to assist them to earn while they learn. It adds a significant supply to the fuel that primes the Commonwealth's tax engine and, upon completion, its flow is eventually replaced by the full-time workers who will be needed to facilitate the myriad needs of these new structures. The alternative is leaving an ugly concrete block in place and keeping the aforementioned neighborhoods separated.

As is the case with any project, some people inevitably view it with a jaundiced eye. Fear of disruption, height, shadows (or shade on a hot summer day if you are an optimist), parking, wind, etc., will, and should, all be raised. It is the job of the proponents to adequately mitigate these concerns.

What I would like people to consider is that, at minimum, in an entire generation, the building trades get one shot at any construction footprint. My experience is owners will not move forward if they do not calculate a profitable endeavor. If they refuse to move forward they simply move on to another project. *We are the victims left in the wake of this fight.* We are also the face of Boston's diverse community; the coaches on the youth sports' teams; the sponsors of said teams and organizations; the people who reinvest in the local non-profits; the people who have invested into the city by purchasing homes and keeping local businesses profitable through income reinvestment; the people who create careers for men and women who are disinclined to attend college and, resultantly, find themselves without any viable career path; the people who embrace returning military veterans through our nationally renowned *Helmets to Hardhats* program; and the people who offer our respective buildings to local community groups who need a place to assemble (at no cost), just to name a few of the positive byproducts of our success. This can only result from projects such as the *Government Center Garage Redevelopment* coming to fruition.

The first two phases of *Government Center Garage Redevelopment* project are a tremendous step in the direction of improving the City of Boston for all future generations and will serve as a worthy adjunct to the adjacent and spectacular Rose Kennedy Greenway, allowing the general public to seamlessly traverse the City and enjoy its never-ending treasures. It is extremely well thought out and I am seeking your support of this project. Thank you for your consideration. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Paul F. Lynch