



October 13, 2023

Dan Garodnick, Chair
City Planning Commission
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Dear Chair Garodnick:

On behalf of the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), I write to express our enthusiastic support for Mayor Adams' proposed citywide zoning text amendment, *City of Yes for Economic Opportunity*.

By modernizing zoning tools that date back to 1961, when New York City's economy looked very different, the bold changes in the proposal will encourage the formation and retention of small businesses, support thriving commercial corridors, and promote the spirit of innovation that is the hallmark of our economy. NYCEDC is completely aligned with these goals, and I would like to highlight just a few examples of the ways in which the *City of Yes* plan is closely aligned with our work.

The life sciences industry has been a critical component of the city's innovation economy, becoming one of the fastest growing and top-performing sectors in terms of company growth, revenue, and job creation. Drawing on the enormous, diverse talent pool that is New York City's greatest asset, life sciences companies accelerated our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the industry contributes \$5.3 billion to the city's economy each year, with an ambitious goal for the industry to create \$82 billion in overall economic impact over the next 10 to 15 years. *City of Yes* supports the industry's long-term growth by bringing zoning into the 21st century – for example, removing outdated rules that inhibit the creation of lab space and providing greater flexibility to co-locate with our top-flight hospitals and universities.

The film and television industry is another vital sector to our city's economic health. The *City of Yes* proposal to provide bulk relief for studio developments will help support the over 185,000 New Yorkers who work in the industry and help keep these opportunities growing in the five boroughs.

NYCEDC's work will benefit from the *City of Yes* proposal to create new job-intensive zoning districts that allow for modern loft-style buildings with higher densities in close proximity to public transit. These changes will create new opportunities for modern commercial and manufacturing uses, driving employment in outer-borough areas and supporting our dynamic, vibrant neighborhoods as places to live, learn, work, and play.

Similarly, many smaller manufacturing and "maker" spaces that rely on foot traffic are now restricted to less accessible industrial areas. By allowing small-scale production in neighborhood commercial corridors where such uses are currently prohibited, the *City of Yes* plan will support our work to foster vibrant neighborhoods and grow successful small businesses.



We commend the Department of City Planning's leadership in advancing *City of Yes for Economic Opportunity* and your commitment to fostering economic growth and driving opportunity for the benefit of all New Yorkers in every neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Andrew Kimball'.

Andrew Kimball

President & CEO, NYCEDC