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August 14, 2015

Howard Zemsky
President & CEO
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear President Zemsky:

On behalf of 2.5 million working men and women in New York State, and in solidarity with the Long Island Federation of Labor, I urge you to support New York Cosmos's response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) to develop land at the Belmont Park in Elmont.

It is my understanding this has been under consideration since 2013 and a decision is needed soon in order to facilitate the team's interest in building a new professional stadium that will generate needed revenue and jobs for Nassau County and the surrounding regions.

The popularity of professional soccer has exploded in recent years making this the ideal time to seize on that growing enthusiasm while transforming the area into a popular entertainment venue that will include retail, hotel and office space.

The developer has worked with local labor and is committed to a project labor agreement for the construction of the facility which will help create hundreds of good paying jobs during the initial phase while creating thousands of permanent jobs once completed.

The labor movement understands and appreciates the need for state and local governments to thoroughly evaluate and review projects of this nature before making a decision. However, we feel strongly that this privately funded project would be a huge economic benefit to the region.

I respectfully request you act as swiftly as possible in approving this project and by doing so, assure the local community and the team itself that New York is committed to the Cosmos.

I appreciate your time and consideration to this important and timely project. The NYS AFL-CIO stands ready to assist in any way we can to help make this a success.

Sincerely,

Mario Cilento
President