



Honorable Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
NYS Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany NY 12247

Honorable Speaker Carl E. Heastie
NYS Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany NY, 12248

March 30, 2026

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie,

As organizations at the heart of Westchester’s business and real estate community, we strongly urge inclusion of the Executive’s ‘Let Them Build’ proposal in the enacted budget.

The Westchester County Association (“WCA”) is the leading independent voice of Westchester’s business community, advancing policies and initiatives that promote smart growth, expand housing production, and strengthen economic vitality. WCA represents a broad cross section of the county’s leading employers in healthcare, finance, hospitality, higher education, and municipalities, all of which play a critical role in shaping and sustaining Westchester’s economy.

The Building & Realty Institute of the Hudson Valley (“BRI”) is a regional trade association representing more than 1,000 members across Westchester County and the Hudson Valley. BRI advocates for policies that expand housing production, support responsible development, and strengthen communities throughout the region.

The WCA and BRI are founding partners of the Welcome Home Westchester campaign, a multi-stakeholder advocacy effort consisting of business and nonprofit leaders, companies involved in homebuilding and the development of housing, academics, think tanks, anti-homelessness advocates, climate activists, faith leaders and community advocates, focused particularly on fixing the housing shortage in Westchester County. We know that Westchester is an incredible and desirable place to live, and we are invested in the shared prosperity of those who currently live and work in Westchester and those who wish to do so.

Members of the Westchester County Association and the Building & Realty Institute of the Hudson Valley represent a broad range of industries and perspectives, and do not always align on every issue. We are, however, united in our staunch support for the Governor’s “Let Them Build” proposal. ***Moreover, we urge you to adopt reforms which focus on addressing the outdated and abused environmental review process without unnecessarily complicating your deliberations with additional and extraneous demands baring little relationship to those environmental concerns the existing law is designed to protect.***



The Governor’s “Let Them Build” proposal comprises the following key elements:

- Cutting red tape: The Governor’s proposal aims to remove environmental review for projects that years of data have shown do not need environmental review. The proposal acknowledges years of experience with environmental reviews that demonstrate most small- to mid-scale infill housing projects with connection to water and sewers located outside environmentally sensitive areas will not have an environmental impact, and ought not to be subjected to lengthy delays and administrative burdens that come with that process.
- Supporting the whole state: The Governor’s proposal aims to get unnecessary administrative burdens out of the way where they are not needed—for everyone. Leaving no county behind, the Governor understands that there are pro-housing communities across the state – including 17 cities, towns and villages in Westchester County – all of which deserve to be relieved of administrative burdens where they are not adding value. Westchester alone cannot solve New York’s housing crisis. We need communities large and small from across the state to be able to join us.
- Including benefits beyond housing: The Governor’s proposal includes infrastructure that communities want and need like parks, trails, water and green infrastructure. As organizations, we want to make Westchester the best place to live, work, and play, with each component of that goal carrying importance for the families we serve.
- Targeted in Scope: The Governor’s environmental review modernization proposal targets high-value projects on previously disturbed land and without involving unrelated and unnecessary policy matters which have little bearing on the law’s existing intent.

Together, with the undersigned organizations, we urge you to include the Governor’s “Let Them Build” proposal in the enacted budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Westchester County Association
The Building & Realty Institute of the Hudson Valley
The Welcome Home Westchester Campaign
Regional Plan Association
Nonprofit Westchester
Housing Action Council
Westhab, Inc.
Construction Industry Council
Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
Calvary Baptist Church



Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill (CHHOP)
Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc.
Collins Capital Partners LLC
Community Housing Innovations (CHI)
Comstock Residential Contracting, LLC
The Delaine Companies
Department of Veterans Affairs Career EAP Manager AFGE
First Baptist Church of White Plains
Ginsburg Development Companies
Goldstein Hall PLLC
Habitat for Humanity NYC and Westchester County
Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors
Hudson Hills Partners
IFCA Housing Network
Kings Capital Construction
Lifting Up Westchester
Murphy Brothers Contracting
RM Friedland
Scarsdale Congregational Church, UCC
Urban Land Institute (ULI)
Westchester Children's Association
Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc.
Wilder Balter Partners, Inc.
Yonkers Family YMCA
Rand Commercial
HANAC
Crieghton Manning Engineering & Surveying, PLLC
St Katherine Group
Cappelli Organization
CClean Commercial Cleaning
Cuddy & Feder LLP
Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce