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GLOBAL GATEWAY ALLIANCE STATEMENT SUPPORTING OVERHAUL OF LAGUARDIA CENTRAL TERMINAL BUILDING

The following will be offered as public comment for tonight's public hearing on the CTB project:

There is no more important airport project in the country than the modernization of the half century old Central Terminal Building at LaGuardia, and the Global Gateway Alliance fully supports its redevelopment.

Unfortunately, the CTB has become a symbol of our nation's decaying infrastructure. Just this year, Vice President Biden was referring to it when he compared the entire airport to a 'third-world country.' This is despite the airport serving more than 25 million passengers a year and hundreds of millions of dollars in investment in new, modern interiors to the two other main terminals at LaGuardia.

It is past time for the Central Terminal to be overhauled. In addition to its outmoded look and feel, and amenities that put it at the bottom of passenger surveys, the current terminal simply does not have the capacity it needs. The bottom line is the airport can't handle growing from 25 million to an expected 35 million plus passengers without the additional gates and larger aircraft the new CTB accommodates.

GGA has a number of core principles that should be included as part of a new LaGuardia CTB.

- First, the terminal should rival new, world class airports in modern and efficient design.
- Second, there should be a transportation link that finally connects LaGuardia to the City's mass transit system – either by extending the N Line to the new terminal or establishing a Bus Rapid Transit or AirTrain link back to the subway system.
- Third, the new CTB needs to allow passengers to move smoothly from parking and taxi areas, through security and to their gates.
- Fourth, the public-private partnership financing, building and operating the terminal must deliver on its promise to become a model for other infrastructure projects in the region.
- Fifth, the new terminal needs state-of-the-art amenities like play areas, spas and free WiFi to substantially improve the passenger experience.

Taken together, GGA believes that all of these elements will mean a CTB at LaGuardia that becomes recognized as world class.

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ABOUT GGA

Global Gateway Alliance (GGA) was established to address the major challenges facing the metropolitan region's airports and related infrastructure that, if left unaddressed, will serve as a major impediment to the long-term growth of New York City and surrounding areas. By harnessing the expertise of leaders in business, government, academia, labor and other sectors, we seek to tackle these challenges head-on and serve as the leading advocate in an effort to improve our airports and facilitate the continued growth of the region. For more information regarding the Global Gateway Alliance, please visit www.globalgatewayalliance.org. Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA_NYNY and 'Like' the organization on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/UsqxGw>.

GGA's board of directors includes: Joe Sitt (Chairman), CEO, Thor Equities; Stuart Appelbaum, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; Chris Giamo, Regional President for TD Bank; Dan Glickman former Congressman and U.S. Agriculture Secretary; David Hopkins, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation; Jared Kushner, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; George Miranda, Teamsters' International Vice President; Mitchell Moss, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University; William Rudin, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; Joseph Spinnato, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; Alvin S. Trenk, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; Peter Ward, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York; Kathryn Wylde, President of the Partnership for New York City, and Tim Zagat, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey.