

**American Institute of Architects / New York Chapter
American Planning Association New York Metro Chapter
American Society of Landscape Architects of New York
Audubon New York
Brooklyn Greenway Initiative
Environmental Defense
Friends of Hudson River Park
Governors Island Alliance
Manhattan Community Board 1
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
Municipal Art Society
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy – New York**

**New York City Audubon
New York Harbor School
New York Landmarks Conservancy
New York League of Conservation Voters
New Yorkers for Parks
Open Space Institute
Parks & Trails New York
Regional Plan Association
Riverkeeper
Scenic Hudson
Transportation Alternatives
The Trust for Public Land
Waterkeeper Alliance
Women's City Club of New York**

c/o Governors Island Alliance 4 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003 Tel: 212-253-2727

November 2, 2007

Governor Eliot Spitzer
The Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Spitzer:

We, the core organizational members of the Governors Island Alliance, seek your leadership in redeveloping Governors Island. Your administration has already seized important opportunities to invest in New York State's environmental quality. In particular we are all very appreciative of your support of the invigorated Environmental Protection Fund. We are now asking that you provide similar direction to the future of Governors Island. The Island's transformation could be a signature achievement of your administration and of the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial in 2009. Your attention and the commitment of the State are needed now if groundbreaking is to occur in the next two years.

Governors Island was deeded to the people of New York on the condition that the City and State transform the former military base into a great new civic space filled with educational and cultural programs. Key to achieving this vision is a substantial long-term commitment to improve its infrastructure, including the creation of more than 90 acres of public green space. Like the Battery Park City of 25 years ago, government investment in parks will prime future development opportunities by increasing the Island's attractiveness and bolstering the confidence of potential partners from the private and public sectors. This could include schools, dormitories, hotel/conference centers, and special event spaces, substantial and viable market uses that will generate and sustain businesses in lower Manhattan and elsewhere.

Thanks to your past support, the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation has already made important progress in the redevelopment of the Island. The Island's 1.4 million square feet of historic buildings are now stabilized and ready for rehabilitation. Expanded Island access, exciting cultural events and car-free biking drew 55,000 people to the Island this summer – more than double last year's total. Planned new ferries and docks will soon enable more than 7,000 people an hour to travel to and from the Island from lower Manhattan and Brooklyn comfortably and quickly. A premier design team will be selected this fall to plan what should be one of the world's great waterfront parks.

But this momentum will be for naught without State and City follow through.

We, members of the Governors Island Alliance, ask you to take two critical next steps towards the Island's rebirth.

First, we ask you to partner with Mayor Bloomberg in announcing your intention to build the parkland and complete the needed infrastructure improvements. Like Hudson River Park, this will be a multi-year commitment. But it is imperative that the State and the City let the public and potential partners know soon of your willingness to develop the public space and infrastructure critical to development opportunities.

Second, we ask that you include \$40 million in State capital funding for Governors Island in your budget for the coming fiscal year, with at least \$ 30 million to follow in FY 2010. This State investment will generate \$70 million in matching funds from the City, creating a pool that will allow demolition of all the buildings on the south end of the Island, complete an initial greening of this area, and improve other needed infrastructure including the Island's sewer and water systems. These actions will create parks for people and the necessary foundation for the Island's development. This State initiative will also take advantage of the extraordinary opportunity presented by having a committed partner in City Hall.

If these steps are taken now, the Island could serve as a key piece of the 2009 Hudson Quadricentennial, with newly established public spaces celebrating the arrival of the tall ships and private tenants and schools ready to rehabilitate the Island's historic buildings.

Once it is redeveloped, Governors Island is going to be one of the great places of New York and, indeed, of the Nation. Central to all the waterfront parks rising around the Harbor, the Island will be a terrific legacy for future generations. But this will only happen if the public sector invests the capital needed to make the redevelopment feasible.

We would greatly appreciate the chance for a small group of Alliance representatives to meet with you to discuss this more fully. We will be calling your office to see if we can find an appropriate time. Thank you for your consideration.

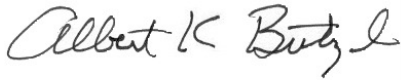
Sincerely,



Kenneth K. Fischer
Chair
Governors Island Alliance



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President
Regional Plan Association



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Friends of Hudson River Park



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President
New York Landmarks Conservancy



Kent Barwick
President
Municipal Art Society



Marcia Bystryn
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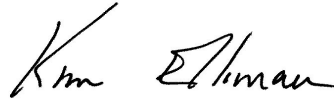
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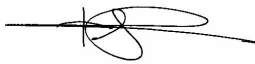
Christopher J. Elliman
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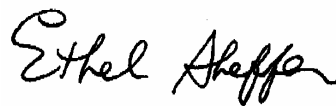
Rose Harvey
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Roland Lewis
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Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance



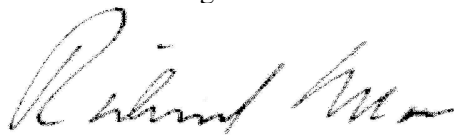
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Kathy Moser
Acting State Director
The Nature Conservancy – New York



Rob Pirani
Executive Director
Governors Island Alliance

cc: The Honorable Michael Bloomberg
Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for the Environment
Timothy J. Gilchrist, Deputy Secretary for Economic Development and Infrastructure
Paul Francis, New York State Budget Director and Special Advisor to the Governor
Patrick Foye, Chair, Empire State Development Corporation
Avi Schick, President, Empire State Development Corporation
Daniel Doctoroff, GIPEC
Leslie Koch, GIPEC
Governors Island Alliance Board of Directors