



BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK

GARY LaBARBERA
PRESIDENT

AFFILIATED WITH THE
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NYS BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS
OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

June 11, 2025

RE: Building for the Future at the Brooklyn Marine Terminal

Dear members of the Brooklyn Marine Terminal Task Force:

I'm writing to urge you to vote in favor of the vision plan for the Brooklyn Marine Terminal proposed by the New York City Economic Development Corporation. As President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York (BCTC), I am excited that the vision could create up to 39,000 construction jobs. It could train a new generation of skilled union craftsmen and women in the building trades, while providing good pay, benefits, and retirement security.

Creating construction jobs in the union trades provides a chance for underserved communities, NYCHA residents, and local residents to gain training and earn career opportunities that provide a stable middle-class lifestyle for themselves and their families. At the Brooklyn Marine Terminal, that means a path to good careers in the building trades for the people of Red Hook and the Red Hook Houses.

The Brooklyn Marine Terminal is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Right now, about half of the waterfront site's 122 acres are occupied by an old container port and industrial tenants, while the other half is mostly empty and decaying. Tomorrow, a redeveloped terminal could include a modern electric port, thousands of new affordable homes, and waterfront open space for families. Instead of crumbling concrete, we should put thousands of New Yorkers to work building for the future on the Brooklyn waterfront.

Good union jobs are about more than a paycheck. They're about pride in hard work, and being able to raise a family in a good home. Union jobs mean your children not worrying about how they'll pay for your care in your silver and grey years. That's what BCTC has delivered for thousands of New Yorkers at projects across the city, and this is what's possible for those who would rebuild the Brooklyn Marine Terminal.

New Yorkers are builders. Our famous skyline, our local streets and parks – they didn't sprout out of the ground. Workers poured concrete, raised steel, and laid brick and pipes, creating entire neighborhoods out of marshland. These New Yorkers didn't just build the city, their jobs supported strong families and a thriving middle class as the foundation of our economy. That's what's possible at the Brooklyn Marine Terminal, but only if you can agree to move forward and build for the future.

Sincerely,

Gary LaBarbera

President, Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York