



gvshp

Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
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Old Chelsea Station, PO Box 1315
New York, NY 10113-1315



Council of Chelsea Block Associations
145 West 17th Street, #3W
New York, NY 10011

**Greenwich Village
Community
Task Force**

c/o 92 Horatio Street, #5-1
New York, NY 10014

October 31, 2013

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Assembly Bill 8031/Senate Bill 5824, the Hudson River Park Bill, and allowance for transfer of development rights to inland communities

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We write to you because we are extremely concerned and deeply troubled by the provision allowing the transfer of air rights from the Hudson River Park for use one block inland in A.8031/S.5824, which was recently passed by the New York State legislature. We believe that this may open up the possibility of completely inappropriate and out-of-scale development along our waterfront, which would be deeply damaging to our neighborhoods.

We are particularly troubled by the possibility that the use of air rights from piers within the Hudson River Park might be authorized by a New York State General Project Plan (GPP). Such a process gives representatives of the local affected communities no say over or and no vote upon the final agreement, thus maximizing the possibility of an outcome which would run contrary to the wishes and interests of our neighborhoods. The alternative vehicle for authorizing the use of air rights, a New York City Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), also offers no guarantees of meaningful input from the affected communities or leverage over the outcome. But a GPP places the decision-making process even further away from those who would be most affected by it, thus making the likelihood of a troubling and problematic outcome from any sale of air rights even greater.

We strongly urge you to consider these concerns before taking any action that would allow or facilitate the transfer of air rights from the Hudson River Park for development inland.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society
for Historic Preservation

Lesley Doyel, Co-President
Save Chelsea

Bill Borock, President
Council of Chelsea Block Associations

Zack Winestine, Co-Chair
Greenwich Village Community Task Force

Cc: Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver
Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
State Senator Brad Hoylman
State Senator Adriano Espaillat
State Senator Daniel Squadron
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Assemblymember Richard N. Gottfried
Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
City Councilmember Margaret Chin
City Councilmember Gale Brewer
City Councilmember-elect Corey Johnson
Madelyn Wils, Hudson River Park Trust
Amanda Burden, Department of City Planning
Community Board #2, Manhattan
Community Board #4, Manhattan
community groups