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February 25, 2008

Diane J. Barrett
Chief of Staff
Office of Assemblyman Rory I. Lancman

Dear Ms. Barrett,

On behalf of New York City Center, I am writing in support of Assemblyman Lancman and Senator Skelos' proposed Non-Profit Homeland Security Preparedness Act. As a historic performing arts center in the center of midtown Manhattan, City Center hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors and artists each year from across New York and around the world. We strive to create a secure environment for these guests as well as our employees and tenants.

With inadequate federal funds failing to make an impact on the security issues facing nonprofits across New York, the proposed legislation would provide much-needed funds to a variety of deserving and needy institutions.

The proposed bill would underscore nonprofit organizations' importance in New York's unique landscape. These organizations touch many sectors and help and serve millions of people. Arts institutions in particular provide a unique and greatly appreciated service to visitors and natives, fostering creativity and cultural expression through works that can impact our city and the world. These institutions can become terrorist targets, and we feel that our security is a pertinent issue to be addressed at the State level, where the unique needs of New York are fully understood, and not left to the Federal Government.

New York City Center supports the passage of this bill for our own benefit and the benefit of arts organizations throughout our state, and in the five boroughs of New York City in particular. As our mission is to present the finest in musical theater and dance to the largest possible audience, we feel that all New Yorkers deserve access to the performing arts. A safer New York makes this all the more possible.

Sincerely,

Arlene Shuler
President & CEO