

**Testimony by
Sandra Wilkin, President
of the Women Builders Council
before the
New York City Council
Committees on Economic Development
and Contracts**

Thank you Chairpersons White and James for giving me the occasion to testify concerning this pre-considered bill which is designed to expand the opportunities for women and minority business enterprises in the building and construction fields.

The legislation's requirement for applicants for city tax benefits under ICAP to include WMBEs will serve to enhance the position for our business community in getting additional work. Women Builders Council applauds the Council's continued support for WMBEs.

It makes perfect sense for New York City to maximize the impact of its tax benefit programs. By requiring those developers who apply for such programs to include us, there will be a strengthening of WBEs. Such strengthening will have a very positive impact on the city's economy. Our member companies provide an expanding chance for more employment of workers in underserved areas around the city.

This maximization would be an economic shot in the arm during a very difficult financial time.

Requiring applicants that they must agree to comply with the program is a major move forward for WMBEs.

There are three suggestions that WBC would like to offer to add to the legislation's objectives.

Under section 4 subsection d, we suggestion that there be an explanation of what type of efforts were undertaken to include WBE's rather than just a check box on any application. This will allow for a review of the depth of those outreach efforts.

The requirement that contracting and sub-contracting opportunities be posted on the agency website should be expanded by an e-mail notice to those certified under the city's WBE program.

Last, WBC suggests that the division be required to report to the Council on a yearly basis on the compliance with the program.

The Women Builders Council and our fellow WMBEs are gratified for the consistent support we have received from the New York City Council. Our missions would be so much more difficult without that encouragement.

Thank you.