



EVERGREENE

Architectural Arts

July 3rd, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

My company, EverGreene Architectural Arts, specializes in the restoration of historic buildings and, to a lesser degree, is involved in new construction. We've been in business for 34 years. We currently employ over 200 people, many of whom work in the New York area—this amount of employees arguably makes us one of the largest specialty contractors in New York. We continually hire and train workers and provide new career opportunities for them. The vast majority of these workers are in the preservation trades, and we export these services across the United States, thereby bringing revenue to New York City.

Historic preservation creates jobs, and highly skilled ones at that. EverGreene's workers are specialized craftspeople, who work on specific facets of buildings' interiors. They restore ornamental plaster, conserve murals, reinstate decorative wood, restore marble, and much more. What we consider the fabric of New York—the historic buildings that give our city such character—requires skilled craftspeople to properly maintain and adapt to new uses. This work is crucial to keeping New York City attractive to its residents, businesses, and visitors. It is, therefore, a fallacy to consider the maintenance and preservation of the city's historic buildings as somehow actively detracting from jobs in new construction.

Indeed, consider the fact that at the turn of the 20th century there were 10,000 stone masons in New York City. Today there are less than 1,000, but the stock of buildings requiring stone masons remains mostly unchanged. This is why preservation craftspeople are not just necessary—they're crucial to New York's survival, and this is why I can state unequivocally that a skilled preservation worker is no less important than a new construction worker, and is very possibly more important.

It is for this reason—and many others-- that the Landmarks Law must be upheld. Without it, real, highly skilled New York construction jobs would be in jeopardy.

Best regards,

Jeff Greene
President

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