



January 19, 2010

*By Fax – Sending 7 pages in all to:*

Chairman Max Baucus, Ranking Member Chuck Grassley, Sen. Jeff Bingaman, Sen. Jim Bunning, Sen. Maria Cantwell, Sen. Thomas Carper, Sen. Kent Conrad, Sen. John Cornyn, Sen. Mike Crapo, Sen. John Ensign, Sen. Mike Enzi, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, Sen. John F. Kerry, Sen. Jon Kyl, Sen. Blanche I. Lincoln, Sen. Robert Menendez, Sen. Bill Nelson, Sen. Pat Roberts, Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, Sen. Charles E. Schumer, Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Sen. Ron Wyden

**Re: Statement for the Record | H.R. 4213**

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The attached request was faxed to the Senate Finance Committee on December 17, 2009. Now that you are back in session we ask you to take note of the compelling reasons behind the call for the Liberty Zone extension be approved subject to an independent cost/benefit analysis of the current project for the World Trade Center. We believe that we make a very clear case for why this assessment is necessary, overdue, and plainly in the public's best interest.

We are including other supporting background information as well that is relevant to the propriety of the request. We hope and expect that after the health care legislation is resolved, you will recognize that this is not a peripheral issue. This is the quintessential trans-partisan, post-political concern of our time. There is a good deal more background information available on our website in support of this application.

The botched "recovery" at *Ground Hero* has become the ultimate disconnect between the American people and their government. But the request we are making to your Committee is quite specific. It does not rest on the fact that there is a plan that makes more sense at every level – a plan that is much more popular, buildable, and appropriate. That does of course matter, but we understand that the disbursement of the Liberty Bonds is at the discretion of New York State. Nevertheless, Congress owes it to the American people to prevent, rather than to enable, another giant swindle coming on the heels of the Wall Street meltdown. There is no more room for error – well-intentioned or not.

**No official has the right or authority to impose any plan on the citizens of the United States, unless they can defend its worthiness. Anything that taxpayers are forced to pay for must be able to withstand scrutiny to be lawful.** New York has failed to justify that the course at the WTC makes any objective sense. It is a reckless, willful exercise. It is where it is today due to the lack of diligent oversight.

Why is this the concern of your committee? The present situation is complex, but the material facts are simple: The Trade Center was built with public money to begin with, by a bi-state agency empowered by the US Congress, and it is being built with public money again. Federal funds and pledges are all that is enabling a project that would otherwise have no doubt been cancelled years ago. So the American people are clearly entitled to a thorough evaluation of its worthiness before anymore ill-advised activity at the site can be confused with "progress." The country is still trying to recover from letting rogue "experts" have their way.

No doubt most of you in Congress assume that the rebuilding is being carried out in a responsible and logical manner, but the truth is shocking. The improprieties, irregularities, and incompetence that have characterized the WTC rebuilding effort have reached a critical mass and we can back up what we say. We are prepared to travel to Washington to meet with any senior aide and to give very substantive answers to any questions you may have.

**If there is a chance that we are correct in what we are claiming, then not only the \$20 billion in federal aid, but also the GSA pledge to occupy almost half of the Freedom Tower, require a meticulous review. That's all we are asking for – an empirical evaluation of a highly dubious plan.**

A very rich public agency and a cast of billionaires and millionaires have thwarted the will of the American people for the World Trade Center – not by having a superior project, but by refusing to even engage in a conversation with those who question the wisdom of what they are doing, with good reason. Sadly, the media has for the most part been curiously silent about something that richly deserved the spotlight.

If our legitimate objections could be discredited or overcome they would have been, so all they can do is marginalize and mischaracterize those who object. That is not the American way. It is vital to our nation's interests that the simple cost-benefit analysis be concluded before the proceeds of the Silverstein Liberty Bonds are released from escrow or another public penny is pledged to prop up a project that cannot stand on its own.

We hope that you will go to [www.twintowersalliance.com/SFC.html](http://www.twintowersalliance.com/SFC.html) , where you will find the supporting documents to this faxed submission.

The future of the World Trade Center is in your hands. It really is up to each one of you.

Respectfully yours,



Margaret L. Donovan | The Twin Towers Alliance

cc: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Sen. John McCain, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Gov. David A. Paterson, Gov. Chris Christie, Domestic Policy Council Director Melody Barnes