



# NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

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RICHARD N. GOTTFRIED  
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March 11, 2005

Patrick A. Miller, PhD, FASLA  
President  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination for the Landscape  
Architecture Medal of Excellence

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am proud to support the Regional Plan Association's nomination for the ASLA Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence.

As the Assembly Member representing much of the West Side and midtown of Manhattan, I have worked closely with RPA over the past year to shape ambitious plans for the development of the Hudson Yards area of my district. RPA's professional and thoughtful research and advocacy, enhanced by its extraordinary stature and reputation, have been indispensable to the public debate.

A highlight of RPA's work is its alternative design plan for the large rail yard in the area. A football stadium has been proposed for that site, which is strongly opposed by my constituents and most New Yorkers. The RPA alternative effectively showed how mixed-use development with open space is the best planning choice for the site and would far outperform a stadium economically and in nearly every other way. The plan has a strong focus on public spaces and access to the Hudson River waterfront, which is now largely inaccessible to the neighborhood.

Under the leadership of President Robert Yaro, RPA has maintained and strengthened its professionalism, independence, and commitment to the public interest. I look forward to continuing to work with Bob and the RPA, and I wholeheartedly support the organization's nomination for this prestigious award.

Very truly yours,

Richard N. Gottfried  
Assembly Member