

March 6, 2019

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker  
Governor of Illinois  
Office of the Governor  
100 West Randolph Street, 16-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: James R. Thompson Center – support for City of Chicago Landmark designation

Dear Governor Pritzker,

As members of the architecture and preservation community, we believe the James R. Thompson Center, designed by Helmut Jahn, FAIA, merits a permanent place in Chicago's cityscape.

The Illinois State Historic Preservation office has determined that the building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and many organizations, including Docomomo US, Landmarks Illinois, Preservation Chicago, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Chicago, the Society of Architectural Historians, and the International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage, concur with this finding. In addition, the organizations agree that the Thompson Center meets/exceeds the criteria as defined by the City of Chicago for Chicago Landmark designation. National Register and City of Chicago landmark designation for the building will help assure rehabilitation and opportunity for reuse over demolition. It will also enable a private developer to utilize economic incentives such as historic tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic properties currently available at all levels of government.

We urge you to support a City of Chicago Landmark designation of the Thompson Center by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks and the City Council to honor the building's importance as not only a grand public space, but as a symbol of Chicago's prominence in the State of Illinois, and furthermore to preserve this important example of Chicago's historic architectural legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Serge Ambrose  
Chair  
**Docomomo US/Chicago**



Bonnie McDonald  
President  
**Landmarks Illinois**



Ward Miller  
Executive Director  
**Preservation Chicago**



Jennifer Sandy  
Associate Field Director – Chicago  
**National Trust for Historic Preservation**



Zurich Esposito  
Ex. Vice President  
**AIA Chicago**



Theodore Prudon  
President  
**Docomomo US**



Michelangelo Sabatino, PhD,  
Dean of the College of Architecture  
**Illinois Institute of Technology**



Pauline Saliga, FSAH  
Executive Director  
**Society of Architectural Historians**



Bryan Clark Green  
Chair, Heritage Conservation Committee  
**Society of Architectural Historians**



T. Gunny Harboe, FAIA, F. US/ICOMOS  
President  
**ICOMOS International Scientific  
Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Heritage**

Cc:

Rahm Emmanuel, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago

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Rafael M. Leon, Chair, Commission on Chicago Landmarks  
C/O Dijana Cuvalo, Dijana.Cuvalo@cityofchicago.org

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