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June 21, 2021

Andrew Heckenkamp
National Register of Historic Places,
Architectural Survey, and HARGIS
State Historic Preservation Office
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Andrew.Heckenkamp@illinois.gov

Dear Mr. Heckenkamp:

We are writing you today to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of the James R. Thompson Center located in Chicago, Illinois to the National Register of Historic Places. As the nation's leading expert on historic buildings, landscapes, sites and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement, we believe the James R. Thompson Center is a part of the on-going heritage of the Modern Movement and its exceptional Postmodern design by Helmut Jahn is of international significance and should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We believe the James R. Thompson Center to be of exceptional significance satisfying Criterion G of the National Register of Historic Places being of less than 50 years of age. We understand the Thompson Center was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places "in the mid 1990s" by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency and its integrity and significance remain to this today. The Thompson Center is a transformational building by the Chicago-based master architect Helmut Jahn that uniquely merges government, civic participation, transportation, and public commerce. The building's colorful design and awe-inspiring atrium are achieved with sophisticated technological solutions responding to the complex architectural and urban challenges of the site. The Thompson Center is the greatest example of Postmodern architecture in the city of Chicago rising to the same level of significance as the AT&T Building in NYC and the Portland Building in Oregon, both designated locally or on the National Register of Historic Places.

As the national arm of Docomomo in the United States of the eponymous international organization with some 70 chapters across the world and more than 20 affiliates and chapters in this country, we recognize the urgent need to advocate for the preservation and reuse of significant examples of Postmodern and recent past architecture. We strongly believe identifying and preserving significant projects that are a continuation of modern movement values



including their aesthetics, technology, setting, and social considerations is critical to our mission.

We urge you to recommend the James R. Thompson Center to the National Register of Historic Places. We believe it is an exceptional example of the spirit and architectural design of its time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TG", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd Grover
Vice President Advocacy
Docomomo US

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Waytkus", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Liz Waytkus
Executive Director
Docomomo US