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STATEMENT FROM GLOBAL GATEWAY ALLIANCE CHAIRMAN JOE SITT CALLING ON PORT AUTHORITY TO MOVE LAGUARDIA, NEWARK PROJECTS FORWARD

(NEW YORK) — *The following statement was released today by Global Gateway Alliance Chairman Joe Sitt following the Port Authority Board vote to authorize redevelopment projects at LaGuardia and Newark Liberty airports:*

“For too long, New York and New Jersey airports have lagged behind their national and international competitors, costing us growth and hurting our reputation as a leading global city. So the news today that the Port Authority is advancing modernization projects at both LaGuardia and Newark is good for passengers and the long term health of our economy.

“But the agency must stick to its commitments to rebuild our airports, because too often other immediate political needs have ‘jumped the line’ and siphoned off resources, leaving LaGuardia, JFK and Newark far behind competitors in everything from flight delays down to the condition of the bathrooms. That should stop today.

“At the same time, the Port Authority must clarify the total budget and timeline for the planned redevelopment of LaGuardia, where too many questions have already arisen, and increase transparency so the public can track progress and the project remains accountable.

“The modernization of the half-century-old Central Terminal Building is the linchpin in transforming LaGuardia from ‘third world’ to first class, and the Terminal A redevelopment will strengthen Newark's standing as an international hub and finally bring a 21st century terminal to the airport.

“We urge the Port to adopt a careful and transparent approach to get these much-needed improvements off the ground and turn our airports into the world class leaders our City and region deserve.”

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ABOUT GGA

Global Gateway Alliance (GGA) was established to address the major challenges facing the metropolitan region's airports and related infrastructure that, if left unaddressed, will serve as a major impediment to the long-term growth of New York City and surrounding areas. By harnessing the expertise of leaders in

business, government, academia, labor and other sectors, we seek to tackle these challenges head-on and serve as the leading advocate in an effort to improve our airports and facilitate the continued growth of the region. For more information regarding the Global Gateway Alliance, please visit www.globalgatewayalliance.org. Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA_NYNJ and 'Like' the organization on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/UsqxGw>.

GGA's board of directors includes: **Joseph Sitt** (Chairman), CEO, Thor Equities; **Stuart Appelbaum** (Vice President), President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; **Angelo Genova**, Founding Partner at Genova Burns and a former New Jersey Commissioner of the Port Authority; **Chris Giamo**, Regional President for TD Bank; **David Hopkins**, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation; **Jared Kushner**, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; **George Miranda**, Teamsters' International Vice President; **Mitchell Moss**, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University; **William Rudin**, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; **Joseph Spinnato**, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; **Alvin S. Trenk**, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; **Peter Ward**, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York; **Tom Wright**, Executive Director of the Regional Plan Association; **Kathryn Wylde**, President of the Partnership for New York City, and **Tim Zagat**, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey.