



December 16, 2020

Hon. Edward Romaine, Town Board Members  
Town of Brookhaven  
One Independence Hill  
Farmingville, NY 11738

**Re: Local Law #15 of 2020**

Dear Supervisor Romaine & Town Board Members:

On behalf of the Association for a Better Long Island (“ABLI”), Long Island’s largest real estate trade association, I write in support of Local Law #15 of 2020, that seeks to spur economic development by repurposing abandoned, vacant and/or underutilized commercial properties.

ABLI membership consists of the largest commercial, industrial and/or mixed-use real estate developers and property owners, with more than \$20 billion in assets on Long Island.

The economic wreckage from COVID-19 will rival the red ink needed to record The Great Depression on Long Island more than 80 years ago. It has already had a significant impact on our region’s economy, affecting small to large businesses, and has posed a threat to the safety and public health to 2.8 million Long Islanders. By adopting firm, innovative, and practical development proposals, such as Local law #15, the Town of Brookhaven can become a successful partner in creating the environment for a speedy post pandemic recovery that will be vital to our region’s economic future.

The creation of a floating zone, the Commercial Redevelopment District, provides the development industry with the necessary flexibility to repurpose existing properties to better serve the surrounding community’s needs. The law will spur economic development, leading to job creation, improved home values and, most importantly, provide a means of reducing the tax burden for the residents of Brookhaven.

In these unprecedented times where revenue shortfalls are widespread and employment remains at seven percent, creative ways to spur economic development will be critical in the region’s post pandemic economic recovery. Therefore, the Association for a Better Long Island fully supports Local Law #15 of 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Strober", written over a thin horizontal line.

Kyle Strober, Executive Director  
*Association for a Better Long Island*