

**THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY**

May 10, 2011

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF 70 PINE STREET, MANHATTAN, THE CITIES SERVICE BUILDING, AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK AND THE FIRST FLOOR LOBBY AS AN INTERIOR LANDMARK**

Good day, Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy strongly supports the designation of 70 Pine Street, the Cities Service Building, and its first floor lobby as landmarks.

70 Pine is truly larger than life, soaring to 952 feet. The 66 stories are enlivened by rich materials and decorative elements, including rows of stylized aluminum sunflowers and butterflies and a full model of the building for those who couldn't see to the top. Upon completion it was the third tallest building in the world behind the two icons of the New York skyline, the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building. Like those two, this Art Deco tower is a masterpiece of graceful setbacks, maximizing its small footprint, and creating an elegant spire. And like those and nearby towers, 1, 14 and 40 Wall Street, 70 Pine merits landmark designation.

The first floor interior is also well-deserving of designation. The intact lobby features gleaming marble surfaces, cast aluminum ornament in geometric designs, and a decorative pattern derived from light waves, so that the visitor would never forget the Cities Service Company and its energy-based operations. Designation should allow better access for the public to this vibrant space. And it is also hoped that some day the upper floor observatory which Christopher Gray described in the New York Times as an "exhilarating room (is) like being in a cube of quartz at the roof of the world," might also be open to the public.

70 Pine has been on our watch list and likely that of every preservationist for many years and we thank the Commission for taking the opportunity to act on this designation.