

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

October 28, 2008

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE
N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED EDISON OFFICE BUILDING
AT 2-10 IRVING PLACE, MANHATTAN AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK**

Good afternoon, Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of The New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy supports the proposed designation of the Consolidated Edison Building at 2-10 Irving Place as a New York City landmark. This building, completed in several phases brings together two firms which designed some of New York's most significant 20th century architecture. Henry Hardenberg (Plaza Hotel and Dakota Apartments) designed the original buildings and then incorporated two wings and an addition; Warren & Westmore (Grand Central Station and Steinway Hall) added the clock tower and another wing in 1929. It was not exactly a collaboration, but perhaps a synthesis of these important architects working in the Beaux Arts motif. They created an imposing and attractive complex of complementary massing and detailing, that combines the verticality of an 18-story base plus tower, with horizontal stone work, rows of metal spandrel windows, and a striking cornice. This powerful structure fills most of a block. Besides its imposing presence on the ground, the corner tower with its four-sided clock face is a landmark from the air and sea.

Just east of Union Square, the Con Ed Building is an excellent example of the prominent institutional buildings that were built here in the early 20th century. The Conservancy supports this designation and hopes that the Commission will continue to consider many of the other fine buildings on and near Union Square. Thank you for the opportunity to present The Landmarks Conservancy's views.