



11.16.2017

Contact: Kevin Lawlor

[klawlor@buildwithstrength.com](mailto:klawlor@buildwithstrength.com)

202-253-6402

## **Proposed Mass-Timber Building in Chicago Would Weaken City's Skyline and Compromise Safety**

*Build with Strength Advocates 21<sup>st</sup> Century Protections for 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Population*

**Silver Spring, MD** – Late last week [it was reported](#) that Chicago's Goose Island has been chosen as the potential site of the largest mass-timber office building in the country by Houston-based commercial real estate developer Hines. The proposed 270,000 square-foot project would be built at 1017 W. Division St., just outside of the city's fire limits, a district established to keep Chicagoans safe and prevent against the major fire events that have altered the history of the city, such as the great Chicago fire of 1871.

"This proposed project is yet another example of a developer exploiting a loophole in order to turn a slightly larger profit at the expense of community safety standards," said Kevin Lawlor, spokesperson for Build with Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association comprised of fire safety professionals, community organizations, engineers, architects and industry experts committed to strengthening the nation's building codes and communities. "Inching an unsafe building just outside a fire safety zone may follow the letter of the law, but certainly not the spirit. Chicago is the gold standard for safe construction, and this timber project threatens that, Chicagoans need 21<sup>st</sup> Century protections for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century population and should push back against those who would seek to exploit the fire limits boundary for profit."

Learn more at [www.buildwithstrength.com](http://www.buildwithstrength.com).

###