



Landmarks Illinois Statement

Regarding Century and Consumers Buildings, 202-220 S. State St.

Kendra Parzen, Advocacy Manager, Landmarks Illinois

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Chairman Wong and Members of the Commission, my name is Kendra Parzen and I recently joined Landmarks Illinois as the Chicago area advocacy manager. Going forward, I will be taking over from Lisa DiChiera as Landmarks Illinois's primary representative before your commission. I'm glad to have the opportunity to introduce myself today and share a statement of support for the preliminary landmark designation of the Century Building at 202 S. State Street and the Consumers Building at 220 S. State Street, items two and three on today's agenda.

First, thank you to the Commission for requesting that the Historic Preservation staff of DPD prepare Preliminary Summary of Information Reports for the Century and Consumers Buildings. As stated in the joint letter of support submitted in advance of this meeting by Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, our organizations strongly support the conclusion that these buildings meet eligibility requirements to be designated Chicago landmarks, and urge the Commission to vote in favor of preliminary landmark designation.

Earlier this year, Landmarks Illinois included the Century and Consumers Buildings in its 2022 list of Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois due to threat of demolition by their owner, the U.S. General Services Administration, which contends that the buildings must be demolished in

order to address security concerns at the nearby Everett M. Dirksen U.S. Courthouse. We believe that demolition of the Century and Consumers Buildings is not necessary to address security concerns at the Dirksen Courthouse and that demolition of these historically significant would leave a prominent hole in Chicago's most important downtown retail corridor. As the General Services Administration considers these buildings for demolition, designating them as City of Chicago landmarks sends a strong statement in favor of their retention and reuse. Thank you for your consideration.