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March 28, 2012

Ms. Meridith Moldenhauer
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: **BZA Application No. 18352**

Dear Ms. Moldenhauer:

I am corresponding with you today to voice my support for the allowance of Frager's Hardware – **BZA Application No. 18352** – to continue to use the rear portion of their property for outdoor storage display and sale of seasonal merchandise. As a lifelong resident of Capitol Hill, I can think of no business entity that encompasses the warmth and friendliness of one of our city's most unique neighborhoods than Frager's. I have been shopping at Frager's since 1966.

In recent days, it has come to my attention that Frager's is receiving a challenge to their application for continued use of the rear portion of their lot for business purposes. Although I freely admit that the challenge process is an open option available to all citizens of this city for the purposes of remedying disagreements over issues, I fail to see the necessity, or for that matter the reasoning, associated with Frager's application.

For 80 years, Frager's has been a vibrant business on Capitol Hill and an active participant in the community as a whole. It has saved Capitol Hill residents the necessity of traveling great lengths to purchase supplies offered at Frager's thereby reducing carbon emissions.

As I understand it, in filing for the continued use of their rear lot, Frager's is in no way changing the use of the lot in any way. In fact, accordingly Frager's has proposed to upgrade the lot's aesthetics by properly landscaping the venue and turning it into a "green oasis" in the middle of the block. Additionally, to accommodate local neighbors Frager's has agreed to prohibit truck access to the rear yard so to avoid any annoyance to the residents of 11th street. Frager's is merely requesting to continue operating in the same way as it has been for 80 years.

In closing, I leave you with this one thought. In this day and age, it seems that the iconic businesses that have become just as much a part of our cultural identity as our people have are disappearing off of Main Street at alarming rates. We, as citizens, have a duty as stewards of the present, to stand up and support those businesses that have always been there for us. If we fail as citizens to preserve the preciousness of history, than we fail as shepherds of the future.

Ms. Moldenhauer, if you examine the facts and grounds associated with Frager's application you have no other choice than to render approval. I invite you to visit Frager's on your free time. One visit will give you a clear perception as to the impact that Frager's has on the community as a whole.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my thoughts on the matter above, and again I encourage you to approve Frager's request for the continued use of their back lot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert I. Schramm", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert I. Schramm

cc: Tommy Wells, Councilman, Ward 6
Joel Lawson, D.C. Office of Planning
Kristen Oldenburg, Commissioner
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B
Gary Peterson, Chair, Zoning Committee