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Washington DC 20011
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Re: Support of the Walmart/ Replace the 3000 former workers from Walter Reed

To Whom it may concern:

Our Petworth community needs the Walmart. We lost Walter Reed which eliminated a lot of traffic. We need development to act as a hub for all the other businesses in the community. The argument that shoppers will come only for one store is absurd and over looks the successful redevelopment of the Columbia Heights corridor.

Small businesses are leaving with the current state of affairs. Petworth needs a game changer. The Tropicana, which was located at 7820 Georgia, has relocated to Maryland.

Tim Shuy, who is on the local Redevelopment Authority, recently testified that stores and restaurants are hurting. They requested loans, marketing assistance, and property tax abatements. This would not be needed if Wal-Mart replaced the traffic lost by Walter Reed. He stated that business was down by 75 %. Ledo's might have to relocate. This is a travesty.

It seems as if the goal for the Wal-Mart Opponents is to depress our community. I just can't understand the opposition to a development opportunity that would bring so much to so many.

Please let the Wal-Mart plan go forward.

I asked several neighbors if I could send a letter on their behalf and they said yes.

725, 723, 721, 719 Hamilton Street NW.

Thank you- Sean Lilly