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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ZONING COMMISSION of the District of Columbia
In support of the Development of Skyland Town Center
Thursday, February 4, 2010
441 4th Street NW,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for the development at Skyland. I am a lifelong resident of Ward 8 and I've spent a large portion of my shopping experience in and around the Washington DC Metropolitan area looking for places to shop that seem safe, inviting and offer goods and services I can use. I have not done any significant shopping, other than groceries at Safeway, in the Skyland area since the Sears left in the 1980s. When I go shopping, I more often than not, head to other DC neighborhoods or to Virginia or Maryland.

In recent years, I've rarely shopped at the current Skyland shopping center because not only do I find the business mix very limited but the parking configuration is inconvenient. A new mixed-use shopping center with convenient access to parking would be a welcomed improvement over what is available now and would complement and service the surrounding neighborhood.

As a resident of Ward 8 I would like to use less gas and spend more of my dollars with DC businesses, especially those located in Ward 7 and Ward 8 near my home. The new Giant grocery and the IHOP restaurant are welcomed additions and great examples of the type of places I would like to meet friends for a meal or drive to when I need groceries, and they are located in Ward 8. However, a more high-end, sit-down restaurant or two and better general merchandise shopping are also desirous of residents of both Wards. The new development at Skyland, though we have been waiting to see it for a long time, is an opportunity to provide both.

The Skyland Development Team has been responsive to my community by involving residents of Ward 8 in large community briefings & charrettes. In addition, they have spoken with many residents at smaller Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A and 8B meetings.

Thank you.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 09-03
EXHIBIT NO. 80