23 March 200

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW Second Floor
Washington DC 20001

OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
'00 MAR 24 P2:57

Re: Board of Zoning Adjustment Application for the Field School
Foxhall Road, NW (the former Cafritz Estate) Case #16559

Dear Commissioner Reid:

I appreciate the wisdom and careful judgement that must be necessary for you to make the very important decisions concerning the use of our precious land resources in the District of Columbia. These important decisions concerning the public good must be made from the broadest possible perspective. I would like to share my perspective for your consideration in this case.

The most valuable asset to our city's and our nation's future is our children. No one would dispute that. Every collective body making decisions about our future must take the best interests of our children into account. Every chance we have to make a better future for our children we must take.

Anyone who wants to make a difference in our children's lives will first look at education and schools. Our children need state of the art facilities to compete in a rapidly changing world, but also the space to develop their bodies and their physical talents as well as their minds. There are precious few places where this is still possible in our ever more crowded city. We can't locate our best schools in the suburbs. Our children must be able to learn and thrive where they live, here in the city. We must accommodate their needs.

The Cafritz property is one of a rapidly dwindling number of possible school sites here in NW, where we live and where our children need their schools to be. We must weigh the value of allowing the development of distinguished institutions like Field School, who are dedicated to our children's excellence, against the self-serving desires of a few who want all progress in a neighborhood to cease once *their* homes are built.

Why would anyone object to this highly beneficial use of this site? Because the melodious and happy sound of children playing will disturb their tranquility? Because a few dozen more cars will travel roads that currently carry thousands? Which perspective will prevail here?

I trust that you will recognize the great value of keeping an institution like The Field School in the city, the importance of accommodating our children's educational needs, and the huge asset that The Field School will provide to the Foxhall neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Jack Stapleton, 3424 Oakwood Terrace NW, Washington DC 20010

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 270

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.270