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March 23, 2000

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF ZONING

Commissioner Sheila Cross Reid
District of Columbia Board of
Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Second Floor
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Commissioner Reid:

I write today on behalf of my wife and I, our three children who are current students at The Field School (we are all D.C. residents) and all students (present and future) at the school. When my wife first took me to Field to visit with my oldest child I was taken aback; it was not like the other private schools. Everything I have learned and experienced about Field only serves to reinforce my initial sentiment. This school, its faculty and its students are uniquely different, but in their differentness are true assets for our city. They should not be vilified; they should be welcomed and encouraged. Field, above all other private schools in the city, treasures diversity in all its richness as the best environment for teaching our adolescents.

I can understand how neighbors around the Cafritz Estate might have concerns about traffic; they likely would prefer no development of the Cafritz Estate at all or to have things return to the way they were twenty or thirty years ago. The plain fact, however, is that Elizabeth Ely, and the rest of the Field community, have truly worked hard to meet these concerns. You likely know better than I the lengths to which Field has gone to establish traffic limitations, to compel use of public transportation and to create a marvelous facility for its students and for its neighbors. These are not half measures intended to squelch debate; these are good faith, and good willed, efforts to create the best environment.

Much as Ms. Ely would like to meet all of the concerns of the neighbors, given human nature, not everyone would be satisfied unless Field did not move to the Cafritz Estate at all. Fortunately for some, and unfortunately for others, the Estate needs to be sold and to be put to its highest and best use. Speaking from an admittedly partisan view, I think using the Estate as The Field School is its highest and best use. The Cafritzs, who were truly dedicated citizens of our city, would be thrilled by such a use.

Field and its children, many of whom are D.C. residents, deserve the opportunity that the Cafritz Estate presents. Having had the privilege of being involved with the people of quality who are The Field School, I know they will live up to their commitments, and more.

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Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 319

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.319

I must apologize for not being able to attend the meeting scheduled for March 29th, but the rescheduling conflicted with a long planned 25th wedding anniversary trip with my family. I appreciate the opportunity to offer these few insights and I hope that you will favorably consider Field's application.

Sincerely yours,

REED SMITH SHAW & McCLAY, LLP

By: Stephen P. Murphy
Stephen P. Murphy

SPM/rll
cc: Elizabeth Ely