Gael Smith Arnold
2611 Foxhall Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007-1126

March 3, 2000

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid, BZA Chair
c/o Ms Jerrily R. Kress, Director
The Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, D. C. 20001

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OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Re: Case No. 16559 - The Field School - Special Exception

Dear Ms. Reid:

I am writing to oppose the above referenced application of **The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation/The Field School** for a special exception to establish a private school for a maximum of 320 students and 74 faculty and staff in the R-1-A District at the premises 2301 Foxhall Road, NW.

The proposed use would cause even more severe vehicular congestion, render residential streets and commuter thoroughfares more unsafe, create permanent environment impacts, and finally saturate the neighborhood with schools. The result would be to reduce the level of service of the adjacent streets, create gridlock on Foxhall Road in rush hour, diminish the quality of the neighborhood, and remove from the city's tax base a large residential tract of land.

Traffic on Foxhall Road is already seriously congested. The additional accommodation of as many as 320 vehicular turns (by the Field School's own traffic estimate) into and out of the proposed school each morning cannot be reasonably and safely accommodated. The school's traffic consultant, Gorove/Slade Associates states: "The Field School will generate traffic levels which can be accommodated by the public street system without adverse impacts," and proposes neither traffic controls nor sidewalks at the school's entrance. Any traffic solution short of eliminating these additional vehicles on Foxhall Road in rush hour will be unacceptable when the seven other schools in the vicinity have completed their expansions.

Furthermore, the plans filed with the BZA entail major disturbances to the natural land and locate driveways and parking lots next to the private residences on W Street. This will likely result in negative permanent ecological impacts and the emission of dangerous fumes from vehicles idling in car pool queues toward the adjacent homes. The closest home is an authenticated historic farm house willed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

For the above stated reasons, I urge rejection of this application.

Sincerely,

cc: Katherine Patterson
Council of the District of Columbia
441 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

BZA
Case No. 16559
Exhibit No. 61

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16559
EXHIBIT NO.61