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Karen Wirt
234 E Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
March 19, 2001

Mr. Robert Sockwell, Chairman
D.C. Board of Zoning Administration
441 Fourth Street N.W. Suite 210
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sockwell

This letter is written in protest to BZA case # 16648, the application of BP Amoco to develop a mammoth installation at the corner of Third and H Street N.E.

I have lived two blocks away from this corner for 25 years. I have been involved as a citizen member of the Zoning and Licensing Subcommittee of ANC 6A since 1993. I was an ANC commissioner (ANC 6A03) for two terms, from 1994 to 1998, and I have been active since then by attending most ANC 6A meetings. Never in all the time I have served this community have I seen such arrogance and disregard by a developer coming into this neighborhood.

After attending 9 or 10 meetings at which BP Amoco continuously presented its proposal to the community and did not listen to citizen outcries against the proposal, in all honesty I have to say that BP Amoco was rude, closed-minded, and even disrespectful of neighborhood needs. Then, at the eleventh hour, BP Amoco came up with a proposal that was barely acceptable.

The bottom line is this: Our Capitol Hill neighborhood, with small, historical dwellings, is not amenable to a development of the size and scope envisioned by BP Amoco. We do not want a thoroughfare, stop-gas-and-go type of establishment. We want a neighborhood friendly, downsized business that can help us develop a viable H Street corridor – a business district that will encourage people to dine, shop, and walk around to enjoy the attractions of our area, including Union Station theaters and transportation. We do not want a "drive-by" suburban, fast-paced strip-mall environment. We are appalled at BP Amoco's destruction of the historical structure at 316 H Street. This developer has shown no consideration whatsoever of the needs of this community and should not be granted permission to develop a large-scale establishment. A small gasoline station with improvements is fine. BP Amoco ought to focus on the crime we have had at the existing gasoline station over the years if it wants to help this community.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. I join my many neighbors in seeking a small scale development for Third and H Streets that is more compatible with our historical and family-oriented neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Wirt

Karen Wirt
Former ANC commissioner

cc: Council Member Ambrose, Office of Planning

BZA
Case No. 16648
Exhibit No. 103

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16648
EXHIBIT NO.103

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Washington, D.C. 20002
March 19, 2001

Mr. Robert Sockwell, Chairman
D.C. Board of Zoning Administration
441 Fourth Street N.W. Suite 210
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sockwell:

Lest there be no confusion, please note that in my letter faxed this morning, the last two words of the third paragraph should read "still unacceptable" rather than "barely acceptable."

Sincerely,

Karen J. Wirt

Karen Wirt
Former ANC commissioner

cc: Council member Ambrose, Office of Planning

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