Randolph C. Harrison
431 6th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

March 20, 2001

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Mr. Robert Sockwell
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Case No. 16648
FAX 727-8054

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to ask you to oppose BP Amoco's planned expansion on the 300 block of H Street, NE.

It is my understanding that BP Amoco has changed their original plans for the site, reducing the overall size of the project and giving up on its unrealistic plans to close some of the alleyways on the site.

While I appreciate that the new plan is less of an unsightly behemoth than its previous incarnation, it is still too large and inappropriate. BP Amoco continues to insist on building a gas station more suitable for a suburban location rather than the urban setting that is H Street, NE. This new gas station is grossly oversized for the surrounding neighborhood and does nothing to encourage other desirable retail activities on the rest of BP's property or the nearby H Street corridor.

As you probably know, H Street has long been a neighborhood in need of investment and restoration. Once an anchor of retail and business in the local community, the area has fallen on hard times since the devastating riots more than 30 years ago. Yes, new development is needed. But we should be seeking businesses that will serve the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and their residents. This plan is being pushed mainly to serve the commuter traffic that zips in to work in the morning and out back to the suburbs in the evening.

I believe it is incumbent on our city government to look out for the best interests of our city, its neighborhoods and residents, particularly those that don't have the might and muscle found in more upscale areas of DC. The BZA has just such an opportunity here. Please tell BP Amoco that its plan to serve commuter traffic at the expense of an urban

BZA
Case No. 16648
Exhibit No. 126

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16648
EXHIBIT NO.126

neighborhood in need of revitalization is ill thought out and inappropriate. Please stand up for the families and businesses that are trying to bring back H Street.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Randolph C. Harrison

To: Robert Sockwell

From: Randolph Harris

Re: BP Amoco