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**Douglas V. Siglin**
**717 E Street, NE**
**Washington, DC 20002**

December 4, 2000

Chairperson Sheila Cross Reid
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth St., NW Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 16648

Dear Ms. Reid,

I have attended several neighborhood meetings recently at which representatives of BP Amoco have presented plans for a block-long gasoline station and convenience store in the 300 block of H Street, NE. I am writing to you to ask you and your colleagues to reject BP Amoco's proposal.

I have lived in the Union Station./Stanton Park neighborhood for 17 years. During that entire time, I and my neighbors have waited for, or in many cases actively worked for, the re-planning and redevelopment of H Street as a neighborhood-scale retail and entertainment area. We have dreamed of sharing the sidewalks with a variety of neighbors and visitors attracted by its history, its period architecture, its multicultural profile, its small retail shops, and maybe its cafes and entertainment. We have dreamed of a well designed, well-lit, pedestrian-oriented, retail and housing corridor that could help to draw people together in a badly divided area of the city – not a sprawling characterless corridor oriented to passing commuters or impersonal commercial enterprises.

Today, economic, political, and community interest in the future of H Street is once again growing. New investors, as well as the Office of Planning and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, are showing serious interest in the H Street corridor. Elements appear to be coming together that could made our vision real. However, it is crystal clear that a block-long, New York Avenue-style gasoline station/convenience store complex at the very gateway to the corridor could deal a potentially fatal blow to what could, with thoughtful

BZA
Case No. 16648
Exhibit No. 61

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16648
EXHIBIT NO.61

design and investment, become an important part of the social fabric of near northeast Washington.

We believe that there is still a good chance that our community can come together with the city, the nearby university, and new investors to create and implement our vision. A community-wide visioning session is already scheduled for next month. I urge you not to take any action now that will kill or seriously wound the possibility of a new H Street before it can be born.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Doug Siglin

Cc: Andrew Altman
Sharon Ambrose