Charles M. Towle
2970 University Terrace N W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

September 25, 2001

Jerrily R. Kress
Director
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Government of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street N.W., Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Application No. 16740

Dear Ms. Kress:

This letter concerns the application by Jacobsen Builders, Inc. for a special exception for the purposes of constructing a house at 2989 Arizona Avenue, N.W.

I currently own the property immediately adjacent to the Jacobsen lot on the North. My mother and father built a house on the property in 1957 and I have lived there for many years. My home overlooks the property, and I am very familiar with the tree coverage and slope of the property as it existed prior to November 2000, when it was clear-cut by the applicant. Some years ago, I considered developing a portion of my property immediately adjacent to the Jacobsen lot as an investment. Although I did not count or measure the trees on the Jacobsen lot, I can state that it was a very thickly-wooded property, with many large, mature native trees. In this regard it is very similar to my own heavily forested property in terms of slope and tree coverage, where the forest canopy rises to 80 feet or more.

In my view, the applicant completely disregarded the character of our neighborhood and the property, itself, when he cut down virtually all the trees on the lot and bulldozed the steeply sloping lot. The applicant's actions not only violated the terms of the Chain Bridge Road/University Terrace Tree and Slope Overlay, with which

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I am familiar, since my property is part of the overlay, but the developer's clear-cutting inflicted irreparable damage on the character of our wooded neighborhood.

For these reasons, I urge the Board to deny applicant's request for a special exception.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Towle