COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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June 29, 2001

Mrs. Sheila Cross Reid
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Room 201
Washington, DC 20001

Re: 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW -- BZA Application No. 16744

Dear Mrs. Reid and members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I am Councilmember for Ward 6 where the proposed project is located. Jay Hellman has kept me and my staff involved in his work to transform this area from what it is into what it could become.

He has been working on these redevelopment plans for a long time and has coordinated with every interested and appropriate constituency -- local and federal, private and public.

I have received letters of support from the ANC, property owners, hotels, restaurants, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, CHAMPS and more. In a sentence, Mr. Hellman's 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW is the right building for a unique and important site.

Everyone benefits. No one is hurt. And ironically, the District is the greatest beneficiary. This section of New Jersey Avenue links NoMa to the Capitol, to Union Station, to PADC and to the Mall. These three blocks between the Capitol grounds and Massachusetts Avenue are in need of considerable upgrading, redevelopment and revitalization. 500 New Jersey Avenue will be the prominent centerpiece. It will play an important catalyst role.

I am hopeful that you and your colleagues see the same merit as I do, and that you quickly approve the needed variances so it can proceed.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ambrose

Sharon Ambrose

Councilmember Ward 6

BZA
Case No. 16744
Exhibit No. 50

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16744
EXHIBIT NO.50