4000 AL Avenue, Southeast
Washington, DC 20020
September 8, 2001

The Board of Zoning and Adjustment
441 – 4th Street, Northwest
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2001 SEP 14 PM 3:30

Dear Board of Zoning and Adjustment Members,

My name is Paulette E. Tilghman. I live near Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues and I write in opposition to a monopole that may be placed in the rear of that premises. Specifically, I am in opposition to BZA Application #16753.

I oppose this monopole for health reasons only. When I heard that such a device was scheduled to be in my community, I became more observant of existing devices. There are several monopoles, towers, radio dishes and antennae in the Washington metropolitan area. I notice that when I pass some of these devices, my eyes hurt or my chest hurts or both. When I pass others, nothing happens. Unfortunately, I can't see a difference in the various structures (eg. Towers look like towers, dishes look like dishes, antennae look like antennae and sizes vary greatly.). I have been able to get close to some of these apparatuses. A fence encloses each. Each fence has a sign to warn of the dangers one may encounter by merely passing the fence. I wonder - if I put my fingers through the fence, I am in danger. How safe am I by merely standing outside of the fence?

Understand that I own two cell phones. I want improved service. I do not want service to improve at the risk of my health or my neighbor's health.

Additionally, I know that digital signals are best carried by satellites. I must assume that satellites are too expensive to invest in at this time. Instead, a 150-foot tall monopole is scheduled to be erected. (A normal full-grown tree is 30 to 35 feet tall.) We are told that its signals will stay high in the air and that any company will be able to purchase and place a signal on this monopole. How many spots will be purchase? How many of these

BZA
Case No. 16753
Exhibit No. 101

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electromagnetic rays will be continuously passing through the residents of this community? Why can't such companies use existing devices?

I read information on the safety of these devices. At first, it appeared to me that the writings were biased. One side wrote of no proven harmful effects while the other side wrote of possible side effects. Eventually, I noticed one thing stood out. **No one wrote that the towers, monopoles, radio dishes, or antennae were safe for humans to be around.** Supporters of these devices stated that there is no evidence that these devices are not safe**.** I ask you, before voting to have one of these poles erected in my community, **please ask the developers for evidence that monopoles are safe for humans to be around!** Also, please ask them to better explain the danger warning around each pole.

Thank you,

Paulette E. Tilghman