September 20, 2001

Elizabeth C. Harris, D.C. resident of Ward 7, and member of the Penn Branch Civic Association respectively submit this letter to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA).

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) members,

The Penn Branch Community in Southeast Washington, D. C., is one of the most beautiful communities in the city. It is a community of single-family homes, duplexes, a few beautifully maintained apartment buildings, schools, and several small businesses. The city became my home in 1963 and I have always lived in Southeast. I had my eye on the Penn-Branch neighborhood for as long as I can remember, and approximately seven years ago I purchased a home there. I couldn't dream of a better place to live. Penn-Branch residents care about the neighborhood and work hard to beautify and maintain our private and public spaces.

I am opposed to the proposed construction of a monopole cell phone tower in the rear parking lot of the Penn-Branch Shopping Center. I have spent countless hours trying to figure out why it would even be considered for a densely populated residential community such as ours. Our community needs many things, but believe me when I say, a monopole cell phone tower measuring 100+ feet in height, over our homes and a few scattered businesses is not one of them. The majority of the homeowners in this community did not ask for this and we don't want it.

I ask you to please consider the negative impact on the **natural environment** in our community, **property values** (which certainly would decline), and the **health/safety** risks of having this tower literally in our back yards, **towering** over our homes, schools, library, and businesses. I don't have scientific or professional knowledge of the ramifications of such a tower, but I would think that a structure of this nature needs to be located in a more open space, given its size, and more importantly, farther away from people's homes and public spaces. I have major concerns for my health and that of my neighbors given reports of radiation and electromagnetic waves associated with cell phones and related equipment, e.g., the monopole cell phone tower. The quality of our lives is in jeopardy in more ways than one.

BZA
Case No. 16753
Exhibit No. 149

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16753
EXHIBIT NO.149

I see this as an attempt to damage and destabilize our community and I am both sad and angry about it. We would welcome and support businesses and community services that are proven to enhance and benefit a neighborhood, ex. a restaurant, bookstore, grocery store, playground, swimming pool, etc., but **a monopole cell phone tower would do neither**. We didn't ask for it and we don't need or want it in our community. How does this proposed tower support the Mayor's initiative to make residential neighborhoods in the city "family friendly" and attractive? It doesn't. Please vote NO on this clearly inappropriate proposed use of space in our community.

By the way, my cell phone and those of my immediate neighbors work just fine!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Harris

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