D. C. FEDERATION OF CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, INC

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Washington, D. C. 20017

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July 22, 2001

Sheila Cross Reid, Chair
D.C.Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: **BZA Application 16753**

Application of SBA Properties to build a cell tower in the Penn-Branch Shopping Center

Dear Mrs. Reid,

I am writing to express the opposition of the D.C. Federation of Civil Associations to a grant of special exception to SBA Properties allowing it to building of a cell tower in the Penn-Branch Shopping center.

In opposing the exception, the Federation supports the position of the Dupont Park Civic Association and a number of other civic and community associations that oppose the proliferation of these communications towers until there has been a thorough study of the health effects of the electromagnetic radiations (EMR) upon people living in the immediately surrounding residential areas.

We are cognizant of the fact that the proposed Penn-Branch tower comes in under the 200 foot height limit of the recent moratorium passed by the D.C. Council. The EMR safety concerns, however, stem not simply from the height of the towers, but from the number of antennas which the towers are built to carry.

We trust that the Board of Zoning Adjustment will listen to wide-spread objections from the community. The BZA should not prove to be too eager to grant exceptions until legislation and complementary regulations have been issued reflecting a thorough study of health issues.

Sincerely,

Gregory R New

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President
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BZA
Case No. 16753
Exhibit No. 23

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16753
EXHIBIT NO.23