1225 - 34th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20019
September 12, 2001

Ms Sheila Cross Reid
Chairperson, Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 - 4th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Case H 16753 - Application for Special Exception by SBA Properties, Inc. to permit an antenna, other than commercial broadcast antenna, at Penn-Branch Shopping Center, Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues, SE.

Dear Ms. Reid

I am writing to express my concern about the impacts that the proposed 130-foot cellular tower (monopole) in the Penn-Branch Shopping Center would have on my well-being, as well as that of my neighbors, and on the value of our properties. I have lived in this community for 38 years, as have many of my neighbors. My house is located three blocks from the location of the proposed tower site. Along with me, other property owners in this community, as in other communities, fear devaluation of our properties based on the perception of risk about living in proximity to antennas or towers that transmit radiation 24-hours a day. We fear that the continuous exposure to the radio frequency/microwave (RF/MW) radiation will affect the quiet enjoyment of property and general community well-being. We also have grave concerns about the danger of placing a telecommunications tower where children live and play. After all, this is primarily a residential community.

Almost daily, in the news media, attention is drawn to adverse health effects found among people exposed to electromagnetic radiation. We are all exposed to a wide variety of sources of electromagnetic radiation from a number of natural and man-made sources. It is therefore natural to wonder, and even fear, the cumulative impacts from the expansion of the rapidly growing wireless industry. Our community is already exposed, 24-hours per day, to RF/MW radiation transmitted by five "stand-alone" monopole cellular towers and numerous other cellular antennas on buildings, churches, service stations, etc., all of which are located within a 2-mile radius of the proposed site at Penn-Branch.

BZA
Case No. 16753
Exhibit No. 93

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16753
EXHIBIT NO.93

My house sits directly between the proposed tower site at Penn-Branch Shopping Center and another cellular tower recently installed on a lot in Coral Hill, Maryland, just across the DC/Maryland boundary line at Southern Avenue, SE. By automobile, this tower is 1.4 miles northeast of my house, and the proposed site at Penn-Branch Shopping Center is 0.5 mile southeast of my house. ***"As the crow flies" these two sites are very much closer to my house.***

Must the property values and the health and well-being of my entire community continue to be assaulted with wireless infrastructure by the wireless industry as they hide behind the shield of public safety? This is a beautiful, tranquil community of primarily aging residents, many of whom are **unlikely** to be able to purchase another home elsewhere even if they should wish to relocate. Should unnecessary and redundant towers continue to be erected in this community, the value of our properties, surrounded by cellular towers, would most certainty decrease, thus preventing us from recouping our investment should we desire to sell. Therefore, we would be condemned to spend the rest of our lives looking at these aesthetically displeasing towers, especially the one in the Penn-Branch Shopping Center, which would be located as close as to within 30 feet of the contiguous properties in the 3200 block of "O" Street, SE.

The number of Americans using cellular phones increases everyday, but they are still in the minority of Americans. Citizens of a community should not be expected to suffer the negative effects of cellular towers so that a minority can enjoy a luxury product.

I respectfully request that you give serious consideration to the concerns I have indicated herein, and deny the special exception. If it is granted, it would permit the monstrosity of a 130-foot tower to be constructed literally in the back yards of my neighbors homes in the 3200 block of '0' Street, SE and within 200 feet of other homes on "P" Street, "Q" Street, Branch Avenue, and Carpenter Street, Southeast. We have worked very hard through the years to maintain the quality, the beauty, and the tranquility of our community. It is disheartening to think that all that our community has to offer might be adversely affected by something whose negative impacts would outweigh any inherent good it might have to offer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Doris T. Cooper