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September 24, 2002

Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Letter in Support of Board of Zoning Adjustment Case No. 16930
500 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.

Dear Chairman Griffis:

On behalf of Strategic Hotel Capital Incorporated, I write this letter to express our support for the proposed NAR Headquarters building to be constructed at 500 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. Strategic Hotel Capital Incorporated is the owner of Hyatt Regency Washington located at 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

The proposed development will be a significant and positive addition to this area near the Capitol. Currently, the site for the proposed development is underused and unappealing for pedestrians and area workers and residents. Although development plans have been proposed for this site in the past, none have come to fruition. We applaud the NAR and its commitment to develop this site and locate its headquarters here. NAR does substantial business with hotels and the additional business they will bring to the area will certainly be welcomed.

We have reviewed renderings of the building and believe its design will set a higher standard for the neighborhood without being disruptive to surrounding buildings. We are especially impressed with the environmental features of this development and believe that the development's sensitivity to environmental issues will serve as a model for buildings in the future. We also understand that the site was previously approved for the development of an office building with similar height and density, so see no reason why this building should not be built.

In summary, the Hyatt Regency Washington strongly supports this project.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Smith

BZA
Case No. 16930
Exhibit No. 26

CC: Richard Rosenthal, NAR Real Property Operations Committee

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16930
EXHIBIT NO.26