The John Akridge Companies

Real Estate Services

October 2, 2002

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 Members of the Board:

On behalf of The John Akridge Companies, I write this letter to express our support for the proposed NAR Headquarters building to be constructed at 500 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. The John Akridge Companies is the developer of 825, 901 and 941 North Capitol Street and numerous other developments in the District, as well as Gallery Place located near the MCI Arena.

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. 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.

The development of this site is difficult due to the site's small size and unusual shape. As a result of the site's exceptional conditions, the applicant is unable to comply with certain zoning requirements. We have reviewed these areas of relief and fully support the applicant in its request for relief from these requirements. We also understand that the site was previously approved for the development of an office building with similar height and density.

The John Akridge Companies strongly support this project and the requested variance and special exception relief.

Sincerely,

John E. Akridge, III
Chairman

BZA
Case No. 16930
Exhibit No. 47

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16930
EXHIBIT NO.47

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