16930

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Chairman Geoffrey Griffis
District of Columbia Board of Zoning and Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Griffis:

I am writing this letter in support of approval for the National Association of Realtors®'s proposed new building at 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

As a native-born Washingtonian and employee of the National Association of Realtors® (NAR), I want to express unequivocally my endorsement for this project. I have an understanding of the significance a development project can bring to a community. Also, I have an awareness of a commitment of a long standing institution can bring to a neighborhood, community and the city. I went to Gonzaga College High School less than a quarter of mile from the location of the proposed new building of the National Association of Realtors® during the early 1970's. As you know, at that time this neighborhood was economically challenged. Gonzaga made a major commitment to the City of Washington and more importantly, to the area north of Capitol Hill. As an anchor, it has served as one of the leading lights for redevelopment, employment, and business in the area.

I am pleased to be associated with an organization that is committed not only to Washington, DC but to the neighborhood where I spend my formative years as a youth. NAR can and will be a partner in the continued development of this area by the following:

- NAR will once again be a major property owner in the District of Columbia
- The construction process and the building will generate considerate revenues and employment for the city
- NAR will be a welcome addition to the neighborhood as a responsible corporate and social partner and citizen
- The modern design of this new building will serve as an example of environmentally and aesthetically sound architecture

As an individual who grew up in Washington, DC, during the extensive aesthetically conservative and demoralizing office construction of the late 1970's and 1980's, this project will raise the standard for companies investing socially in the city.

Sincerely,

Gustavo A. Paredes

BZA
Case No. 16930
Exhibit No. 50

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16930
EXHIBIT NO.50