16930

JOSEPH R. MOLINARO
1201 O Street, NW #2B
Washington, DC 20005

September 30, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Griffis:

As a long-time resident of the District of Columbia, and an employee of the National Association of Realtors®, I urge the Board of Zoning and Adjustment to approve the construction of the new National Association of Realtors® building at 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

NAR's commitment to investing $45 million in a new Washington building is something of which all Washingtonians can be proud. This project is an example of Smart Growth and high quality design, as exemplified by the following:

- By building in the city's core, NAR will strengthen the economy of the District rather than contribute to suburban sprawl. And the first-floor retail space will bring needed services to the neighborhood and encourage more pedestrian activity.

- NAR's progressive design process, which included a competition among leading North American architects and a review panel that included prominent Washington architects, should serve as a model for other significant development projects in the District.

- The environmentally-friendly features of the building, including a "gray water" recyclable water system and specially-designed curtain wall glazing for thermal heat dissipation, will make this building one of the nation's best examples of "green building" in a commercial structure.

I worked in the nearby Hyatt Regency Hotel on New Jersey Avenue when it first opened in 1976, and frankly, the immediate neighborhood has not advanced much since then. The construction of NAR's building at 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, will propel the Northwest Capitol Hill neighborhood toward the greatness it deserves. NAR's design marks a significant improvement in office-building architecture for Washington and deserves your support.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Molinaro

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BZA
Case No. 16930
Exhibit No. 52

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16930
EXHIBIT NO.52