16930

1530 16th St., NW, #208
Washington, DC 20036

September 27, 2002

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

Dear Chairman Griffis:

I'm writing to you to express my support for the proposed design of a new office building that will be located at 500 New Jersey Ave., NW. This building will house the Washington headquarters of the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the nation's largest trade association with over 820,000 members.

This site was previously approved for development of an office building with similar height and density as the proposed design. NAR seeks similar approval for its proposed building at this location. As a District resident, I urge you to approve this proposal for the following reasons:

- Designed by the renowned Graham Gund and Associates, the new building is environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing, while respecting the diversity of the Capitol Hill community and its neighbors. This structure will be appropriate for the location and will be one of the most environmentally "green" commercial structures in the nation.

- The building will bring significant new business to this area of Capitol Hill. NAR is expected to occupy the top four floors of the 60,000 square-foot, 12-story building, with the balance of office space and two retail spaces leased to outside tenants. Employees of these tenants, along with NAR employees, will spend money in neighborhood shops, restaurants and facilities.

- Most of the $45 million in construction and acquisition capital for the building is going to local area businesses. Washington developer Lawrence N. Brandt Inc. is serving as the project developer, CarrAmerica of Washington is providing construction management services and local architects Bannigan and Associates is providing architectural services. This is in addition to the many D.C. contractors and subcontractors that will be used.

- Finally, this property represents NAR's commitment to maintaining a significant presence in D.C., which results in considerable revenues and employment opportunities for the city.

Again, as a D.C. taxpayer, I urge you to approve the design concept of the proposed NAR building at 500 New Jersey Ave., NW.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Johnson

Linda M. Johnson

BZA
Case No. 16930
Exhibit No. 53

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16930
EXHIBIT NO.53