October 7, 2004

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

By Fax: 202-727-6072

RE: Application No. 17055 of the Army Distaff Foundation

Dear Sir:

I am writing to ask you to uphold the 25-year construction moratorium established in 1990 with Knollwood. Please – fair is fair! The 25-year construction moratorium was negotiated in good faith between the community and Knollwood. If the BZA does NOT require Knollwood to keep its commitments, it only leads to increased distrust and animosity. Doesn't the BZA have a responsibility to protect the community's interests as well? And not just the developers?

I would also like to articulate some of the negative impacts on the neighborhood that the proposed increased development at the Knollwood property will have on the Chevy Chase/Barnaby Woods neighborhood.

Let me say that I am NOT an immediate neighbor of the Knollwood property although I do live about ½ mile away and have only lived in the neighborhood for 9 years – a relative newcomer.

Among the negative impacts that the proposed development will have are the following:

- *Reduction of green space in the city* – there are MANY large, old trees of varying types along the perimeter of the Knollwood property. The proposed development will KILL these trees and reduce the green space in the city

- *Elimination of nesting and safe places for birds and other wildlife* – the large trees, plants, and undeveloped parts of Knollwood currently are filled with wildlife. I have seen many migrating birds as well as deer and foxes on the Knollwood property.

- *Reduction of SAFE walking areas in the neighborhood* – Although Rock Creek Park is close to Knollwood, the recent rape in the Community Garden off of Oregon, the recent abandonment (& immolation) by bank robbers of a van at Oregon & Northhampton, the murder of Chandra Levy, as well as the recent presence of coyotes in Rock Creek Park have reduced the safety of the Park for people walking, dog walking, and other low impact activities.

BZA
Case No. 17055
Exhibit No. 152

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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CASE NO. 17055
EXHIBIT NO. 152

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- *Increased traffic on Oregon, Tennyson, and 29th Street NW* – It is virtually impossible to cross Oregon on foot now at the Oregon and Tennyson St. intersection (access to Rock Creek Park). Additional housing at Knollwood will only exacerbate this situation.

- *Increased ugliness and inappropriate large-scale development* – this is a neighborhood of smaller and older houses – a large development will significantly change the character and peacefulness of the neighborhood – both visually and economically.

- *No positive economic impact on the District* – This development will neither increase the tax base for DC or provide jobs for DC residents

- *Elimination of the public right of way and access to the E6 bus* – the proposed development will eliminate easy access to this bus route

Sincerely yours,

Scott Wiskoski

Ms. Scott Wiskoski
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