Geoffrey Griffis, Chair
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW
Second Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 17179 Heritage Foundation parking lots
Letter of Support

Dear Members of the Board:

As any efficient lobbying organization should, the Heritage Foundation has done a good job of alerting nearby residents of their application to renew the parking lots in the block surrounded by 3Rd, 4th, D, and E Streets NE. I support the application for all the reasons they site – it is clean, well-maintained, and safer.

As a property owner at 317 E Street NE since 1974, I take a long-term view of the "back lots" as we call them. When I moved in, there were two skeleton buildings identified as the "old Senate Stables." There were several efforts by developers to retain the historic facades and create apartments for rental or sale. None of these proposals was viable given the economics and condition of the sites. Ultimately, both buildings burned (arson was suspected) to the extent that they became dangers and were torn down. Subsequently, Heritage and a nearby apartment building have maintained the lots for parking.

Historical preservation is no longer an issue and the high value of neighborhood housing may make a development project appear to be economically sound. But I have yet to hear a viable proposal that would not bring too much population density and all the associated problems to a small area. Moreover, the Board should consider additional factors involving the presence of the Heritage Foundation in the neighborhood. Whether one agrees with its political positions or not, Heritage has invested considerably in the neighborhood in refurbishing two old buildings. It is a good neighbor in allowing local residents use of its parking area for after-hours and weekends. We need to keep organizations like that on the Hill. As a result, I request the Board respond favorably to Application #17179. I am happy to discuss my views and can be reached daytime at (202) 647-1463 or evenings at (202) 546-3534.

Sincerely,

Paula Causey

Paula Causey
317 E Street NE

BZA
Case No. 17179
Exhibit No. 37

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17179
EXHIBIT NO. 37