August 10, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

We understand and are respectful of the setback regulations, and ask for this exception only because of interior renovations done by the previous owner that resulted in a difficult floor plan. We do not want to do anything that would compromise the integrity of our wonderful historic Chevy Chase home, as we intend to spend many many years enjoying its unique charm.

Here's the problem: A long time ago, a previous owner built an addition onto the back of our house--something of a caboose that starts at one side and goes about ¾ of the way to the other end. The addition contained a bedroom and bath. Two years ago, another set of owners came in and completely gutted the house. They removed their small kitchen and relocated it to the addition. Where the old kitchen was, is now this odd small space, useful for just about nothing because it's on the old corner of the house where the addition doesn't extend. We cannot knock down the interior wall to open it into the next room, because that wall holds all of the house's main systems.

What's wrong with the kitchen as is? Nothing, except the previous owners didn't have children. We have twin 2-year-olds. The new kitchen was built around an enormous, high island that takes up the bulk of the room and, while a great place to work, is also the only place to eat. The kitchen is next to another small room that they used as a dining room, but we desperately need as a family room. This family room is also the only route into the kitchen, and sticking a table in the middle of it would create more head injuries than we can imagine.

By extending the kitchen out to the current end of the house (essentially just squaring off the house) we can then open up that leftover bit of exterior back wall into the original small kitchen space (the nothing room) and give ourselves an eat-in kitchen/dining area, large enough for a regular table. It's really just a few feet, but it would save us from having to strap our kids onto teetering barstools to eat, as we do now. Not to mention the island only seats three, and we are four, so my husband and I take turns standing to eat.

As for the upstairs, it would also give us a great space for our own bathroom. Currently there is only one bathroom upstairs, and, again, we are four.

Our neighbors have absolutely no problem with our doing this, as the bulk of the house is already along this foundation line, and it really changes very little save extending the length of the house a bit to where the addition already ends.

Again, we are mindful of the rules and respectful of the historic integrity. We simply need a few extra feet of space, so we can all sit down for a nice family dinner.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Diana and Scott Gold

ING ADJUSTMENT
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EXHIBIT NO. 8

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