January 31, 2005

To: D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment (Suite 210-S)

Re: Application # 17264 – Deck variance at 407 E Street, NE

We understand there is a hearing March 15, 2005 concerning this application. Unfortunately, we are not acquainted with any of our neighbors along the E Street block that backs into the same area as our home. However, we see the back of these houses from our back garden and are very familiar with the house/deck at issue here.

We moved into our home in the Fall of 2000. At the time, there was a two-story deck on the back of the house at 407 E Street. It was swaying greatly, and we always wondered if it was safe. Obviously, this large, rickety structure was also not a very pretty sight for the neighbors. Needless to say, we were pleased to find that the deck was to be replaced by a new deck –one that is consistent with other one-level decks along the same row of houses and is tidy looking.

We have no objection at all to a variance for the deck at 407 E Street and, in fact, welcome the improvement. It is a pleasing change for the neighbors that share the back space, consistent with other houses in the row, is a minimal improvement to the property to provide some comfort/use in a way that does not detract from the historic character of the homes in the neighborhood, and we expect is an asset for people considering buying along that block, which otherwise has relatively shallow yard space.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. We support the variance.

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO. 32