THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL
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Washington, DC 20515
January 3, 2005

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2005 JAN -4 PM 12:36

Mr. Geoffrey H. Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning, District of Columbia
441 4th Street NW; Suite 210 South
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: BZA Case 17271 - JBG/Louisiana
51 Louisiana Avenue NW
Opposition to Requested Variance from Building Height Limitation

Dear Chairman Griffis,

Mr. George Dove of WDG Architects contacted my office regarding a proposed addition to an existing building at 51 Louisiana Avenue, NW. It is my understanding that the owner will request a variance from the current 110' height restriction for that site. The proposed variance would allow the applicant to build to the maximum height established by the 1910 Height of Buildings Act, which is 130' for Louisiana Avenue. The penthouse of the addition would rise an additional 18' - 6" above the 130' level.

As you know, the proposed addition is adjacent to the Senate park section of the Capitol Grounds. We have reviewed the proposed addition and the height variance with the Senate Sergeant at Arms and have been advised that they strongly object to the variance. The lines of sight that would be created from the roof and penthouse of the proposed structure would present a serious security risk to the Senate wing of the Capitol.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to deny the requested height variance and maintain the existing zoning envelope allowed for this site.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Hantman, FAIA
Architect of the Capitol

cc: Mr. William H. Pickle, Senate Sergeant at Arms
CMR: 04-12-29-13-01

BZA
Case No. 17271
Exhibit No. 21
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO. 21