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March 29, 2006

Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 N. 4th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20001

RE: BZA Application No. 17309
Dorchester Associates

Dear Chairman Griffis,

On April 11, the Board will consider the application of Dorchester Associates for a special exception to District zoning laws in order to construct thirteen houses in my neighborhood at 2762 Chain Bridge Road.

Chain Bridge Road is an historic and lovely road. It has a rural character unmatched anywhere else in Washington, D.C. A large part of its attraction is the eclectic architecture (every home is different, from cottages to prim Victorians to a few "French country" houses, even a Bauhaus-inspired modern). Perhaps the most important part of its charm, however, is the rolling land and massive trees. Both are able to be enjoyed not only all along Chain Bridge Road, but especially in that historic Civil War site, Battery Kemble Park, which is directly across from the building site at issue.

It was to protect these trees and land that the Chain Bridge Road/University Terrace Tree and Slope Overlay was created. The proposed development is so massive and out of character and the impact on the land so severe as to be destructive. There are serious problems of storm water run-off, damage to healthy trees, and road safety. To shoehorn 13 massive homes into the space available can have only one purpose -- to maximize profits for the developer -- with no consideration of the effect this will have on the nature of the neighborhood or the quality of life. To allow such out-sized development is to render the Tree and Slope Overlay useless.

Chairman Griffis, you and the Board have the power to render a landmark decision on how citizens can protect the best qualities of our city through the democratic procedures inherent in our Tree and Slope Overlay process. I trust you not to fail to uphold the power of your office. We are not against development. We are for development that protects and preserves the best this city has to offer. This is not just for the people in this neighborhood, but also for all who come to enjoy Battery Kemble Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Carhart

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BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 17309

EXHIBIT NO. 92

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District of Columbia
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