

August 18, 2002

Zoning Commission
441 4th Street N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay - Case No. 02-19.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter to voice my support for the proposed Tree and Slope Overlay. I am a doctor, and this year I have served as a consultant to the Department of Energy on societal effects of power generation, including the health effects of air pollution.

Air pollution has been shown to be responsible for over 1,000 deaths each year in the Washington area, from respiratory conditions alone. It has also been shown that air pollution triggers heart attacks as well as asthma and allergies.

Trees are known to reduce air pollution. Protecting trees is essential if the city is to have any chance for good air quality. Moreover, the latest research indicates that trees that are still growing are best at removing pollution. In order to continue growing, trees require space for their roots to spread out. The proposed overlay helps to assure that trees will have the room to grow and thrive.

Furthermore, some categories of air pollution are created by heat. The proposed overlay offers help on two fronts. First, paving is restricted. As anyone who has visited downtown Washington in the summer knows, paving increases the temperatures. Restricting the paving keeps the temperatures lower and thus reduces the amount of pollution that is generated. Secondly, trees are protected and given room to grow large. The shade provided by large trees has a significant (typically, 10 to 15 degrees) cooling effect, which also reduces the amount of pollution that is created.

I have seen the effects of air pollution on members of my family and on my patients. It is criminal to allow personal profit and greed to take priority over protecting the lives of our citizens. Once lots are paved, and trees are lost to development, it is too late. We need to act now.

I urge you to pass a tree and slope overlay that encourages large lots, minimum lot occupancy, and minimum paving. This would be a public health measure, benefiting all residents of this city.

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Philip Shambaugh
2830 Upton Street N.W.
Washington DC 20008

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Case 02-19

Exhibit 193

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.193