

Mr. Alberto P. Bastida, AICP  
Secretary of the Zoning Commission  
Office of Zoning  
Suite 210  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC, 20001

Re: Case No. 02-19(Text Amendment-Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District)

June 6, 2002

Dear Mr. Bastida,

I am writing in support of the proposed Tree and Slope Overlay for Forest Hills. My husband and I have lived within the overlay district for sixteen years. We purchased our house in large part because of the number of large, mature oak trees in our front and back yards.

I support the Tree and Slope Overlay. I would, however, submit the following comments. The penalty for cutting down a mature/large tree is too small. Consider that most projects in this neighborhood of new construction are at least \$1million, the percentage of the penalty of the total project should be great enough to cause the builder to weigh the consequences of his actions. In addition, I believe there should be a provision which would require the planting of a new "like" tree when a tree is cut down. This would ensure some renewal. The fines collected should go to the city's tree budget.

I support the provision of the Overlay which restricts the percentage of a lot covered by new and expanded construction. These vast houses not only do not fit into this neighborhood, but the construction jeopardizes trees in adjacent yards (see 3000 block of Brandywine Street).

In the past two years, a large number of building projects have destroyed both many trees and an important slope near Rock Creek Park. The city's tree cover has been decimated over the last 20 years. We should be the responsible stewards of these natural treasures. They are not ours to do with as we please. We should feel the responsibility of taking care of them and making certain generations to come will benefit from the beauty of this "forest".

Thank you for your careful consideration of the importance of this Overlay .

Sincerely,

Susan N. Crudgington  
4501 30<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
**District of Columbia**  
Case 02-19  
Date 48

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.02-19  
EXHIBIT NO.48

D.C. DEPARTMENT OF ZONING  
JUN 10 11 AM 3:34