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June 5, 2002

Mr. Alberto P. Bastida, AICP
Secretary of the Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
Suite 210
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

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

Dear Mr. Bastida:

We have resided for eighteen years in Forest Hills in the area within the proposed tree and slope overlay amendment. We are writing to express our strong support for the proposal.

Like many others, we sought this neighborhood in large part because it offered a green oasis of trees and quiet. We and visitors to our home have always marveled at the unique and special quality of a neighborhood that offers the birds and graceful trees of Rock Creek Park within easy walking distance of bustling Connecticut Ave. and a metro stop.

Approximately fourteen years ago, we experienced firsthand the tragedy of watching ancient oak trees bulldozed on the lot next door to make way for four new houses (for a total of five) where there had been one. In addition, the cutting away of the hillside next door near the property line to allow for a driveway caused the immediate loss of our own large hickory tree (which had to be removed at our expense) and the decline of another very old red oak. Several other of our large trees have been damaged and their long-term survival jeopardized.

More recently, we have been alarmed by the sudden increase in the pace of construction of mega-houses on lots in Forest Hills, which invariably commences with the cutting down of many large trees – most recently on the other side of the street at the end of our block at Albemarle and 29th Street, and by the felling of other large oaks at two sites on Brandywine Street behind us.

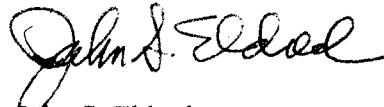
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-19
Exhibit 52

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-19
EXHIBIT NO.52

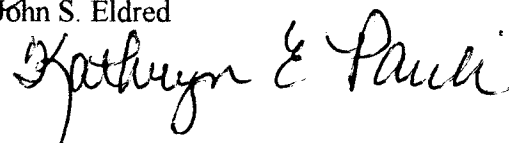
We believe it is important to halt this practice and to protect the character of the neighborhood by adopting the tree and slope overlay amendment. In addition to the general prohibition on the cutting of trees, we specifically urge you to adopt the provision that would limit permitted ground coverage; this provision is necessary to protect trees on adjoining property. At a time when the loss of tree cover in the District of Columbia has been well documented and there are efforts underway by the city and private groups to re-plant trees, we urge the Commission to protect the existing trees and nature of Forest Hills by adopting this amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

Very truly yours,



John S. Eldred



Kathryn E. Pauli

cc (by email): Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F

Mr. Philip Kogan

Mr. Robert Maudlin

Mr. Douglas Mitchell

Mr. Todd Strauss

Ms. Karen Perry

Mr. David J. Bardin

Ms. Cathy Wiss

Mr. George Clark

Mr. Gary Stevens

(by mail): The Forest Hills Citizens Association c/o Ms. Barbara Simons