

3222 Broad Branch Terrace NW
Washington, DC 20008
June 13, 2002

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

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

As a resident of Forest Hills, I am opposed to the petition for a Forest Hills Tree and Slope Overlay District filed by the Forest Hills Citizens Association on April 5, 2002 and respectfully request and urge the Zoning Commission to reject the petition.

The entire scheme seems unduly burdensome. I am particularly concerned about the tree restrictions. Since no one can fully foresee whether they or a future owner might need a building permit, the restrictions on removing trees apply to everyone. It seems to me that any action with respect to trees — sick, hazardous, or healthy — will have to be carefully documented and records maintained to reach a level of legal proof, to assure continued eligibility for a building permit. It would add a level of uncertainty about whether a permit would be granted, and it undoubtedly would require a longer period for this extra layer of review. Moreover, the process of seeking an exception, should one be needed, would be costly and time consuming.

I know I would think twice about buying a house so bound up in the restrictions this overlay imposes, and I fear that will be a factor if we want to sell our house in the future.

Forest Hills has remained heavily wooded for decades without these types of restrictions. If there are small pockets that are less wooded or more highly built up, that contributes to interest and urban diversity. I do not fear such pockets will become widespread. And I do not think there is an identified problem sufficiently grave to require the entire neighborhood to be tied up in regulation and bureaucracy as this tree and slope overlay would do.

Respectfully submitted,


Iris J. Lav

Cc: ANC 3F
Robert Maudlin (ANC 3F03)

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-19
Exhibit 67
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 02-19
EXHIBIT NO. 67