# INTERNATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE

September 20, 2002

Jerrily R. Kress
Director
Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Case No. 02-25 (The University of Notre Dame – Lot 249, Square 155)

Dear Ms. Kress:

I am writing as Chairman of the International Law Institute (ILI) in opposition to the application of Nauru Phosphate Royalties (current owner) and the University of Notre Dame (prospective owner) to establish a university campus, housing approximately 50 students, on the premises of 1615 New Hampshire Ave., N.W. I understand that the Zoning Commission decided, at its September 12 hearing on the matter, to extend the time for filings in this matter until October 4, 2002.

ILI is currently occupying the lower level, first and part of the fourth floor of that building and conducting its program of short-term seminars, conferences and practical training for mid-level professionals from developing and transition countries. ILI is a nonprofit organization organized under Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has been conducting its program under lease from the current owner since 1989. The ILI lease will expire June 30, 2003. Prior to the sale in question to Notre Dame, ILI was engaged in negotiations with the current owner to renew its lease in this building.

ILI joins the residential tenants of the building and the residential neighbors in opposing the variance requested. If the University of Notre Dame acquires the property and converts it to student classes and a dormitory for 50 students, the quiet residential character of the neighborhood will change dramatically and inevitably for the worse. The residential tenants and neighbors made this case forcefully at the September 12 hearing.

There is an additional reason why the Zoning Commission should reject the application for variance – loss of revenue to businesses in the area.. ILI's program of seminars and training brings participants to Washington, to the DuPont Circle area in particular, from all over the world. These individuals are not housed in ILI space (which is devoted to short-term classes and administrative support) but they do reside in nearby hotels and they do shop and eat in nearby restaurants. ILI itself spends over $250,000 a year on behalf of the participants (for lodging, dinners, receptions) at DuPont Circle establishments, including the Jurys Washington Hotel, the Washington Monarch Hotel,

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-25
EXHIBIT NO.36

1615 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
TELEPHONE (202) 483-3036 • TELEX 64551 • FAX (202) 483-3029 • email: training@ili.org • www.ili.org

the Carlyle Suites Hotel, the Embassy Square Suites, the Concordia Hotel and restaurants like La Tomate, Kramer's, Zorba's, and Thaiphoon. The participants also spend a great deal of money, for breakfast, lunch, dinner and entertainment, as well as purchases at retail stores in the Connecticut Avenue corridor. And they also encourage others from their countries to come to Washington. The ILI program brings this revenue to the area, as well as an interesting, diverse group of foreign visitors who value the ILI learning experience and the quality of living in the DuPont Circle area. If the variance is approved, ILI will be forced to leave at the conclusion of its lease in June of next year and these benefits to the community will also disappear.

We trust the Zoning Commission will seriously consider this argument in opposition to the requested variance.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wallace, Jr.
Chairman
International Law Institute