COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

September 4, 2003

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 03-06
Southeast Federal Center Zoning Overlay

Dear Chairman Mitten and Members of the Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support of the application to establish a Zoning Overlay for 42 acres of the Southeast Federal Center. As the Councilmember for Ward 6, the revitalization of the waterfront has been one of my primary interests. As Andy Altman has stated, this proposal by the General Services Administration is a "milestone petition" that represents the exciting opportunities offered by public-private partnerships. This petition will realize the objectives of the Public-Private Partnership Act that Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton drafted and it will allow for the creation of a vibrant mixed use community at the water's edge with 1,000 linear feet of frontage along the Anacostia River.

There are three fundamental reasons for my unequivocal support for this petition:

1. GSA's initiative in filing this petition represents a strong departure from the 1992 NCPC plan for the Southeast Federal Center, which would have resulted in a federal enclave containing 5.8 million square feet of office use and ***no*** residential development.

COMMISSION
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ZONING COMMISSION
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2. The development community has already indicated its strong interest in this property through its responses to the RFQ. We must act quickly to maintain positive momentum.

3. This petition is the product of a thoughtful planning process involving extensive community outreach, hours of meetings with various community groups, and endless effort by the staff of GSA and the Office of Planning.

I strongly urge you to approve this petition on an expedited basis to allow this extremely significant initiative to proceed.

Very truly yours,

Sharon Ambrose
Councilmember, Ward 6