



November 23, 2021

DC Office of Zoning
441 4th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: The Catholic University of America: Proposed Solar Facility - Zoning Commission Case No.12-01E

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission:

My name is Mark Buscaino, Executive Director of Casey Trees. I am writing to express my support for the proposed use of a portion of Catholic University's West Campus for a solar electric generation facility.

For over a decade Casey Trees has been a close partner of the Catholic University of America (CUA). Casey Trees has regularly used CUA's campus facilities to stage our education and conference events that serve not just the local community, but professionals in the tree and green-infrastructure professions locally, nationally, and internationally. We have planted over 300 trees on the CUA campus to both improve the local campus environment and to also help us train hundreds of volunteers who then take their skills to plant thousands of trees in all eight wards of the District. CUA generously provides us land where we temporarily store over 4,500 trees each year before planting them throughout DC in parks, schools, and homes.

Casey Trees strongly supports CUA's efforts to increase the amount of green energy in the city. The West Campus site is unique in that it can function at a large scale not typically possible in DC proper. Second, the existing vegetation on-site is relatively devoid of trees and therefore uniquely suited for a solar array. Finally, for the few heritage trees that do exist, the plans have been designed to protect them.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this matter. If you have any questions feel free to call at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Mark Buscaino,
Executive Director