

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to the Office of Planning proposed zoning text amendments in Case No.19-04. I am in opposition of the changes that will allow Community Solar Facilities as a matter-of-right in the District of Columbia thus eliminating my voice and the voice of all DC citizens their rights to participate in the productive discussions and decision making process to mitigate risk associated with the implementation of referenced size and scope solar projects in their community. Eliminating our right to protect our families, our health, the environment and our property is not an option.

I actively attend ANC meetings, Zoning meetings and community meetings concerning NO.19-04 after I became aware of the proposed amendments to the Board of Zoning review process and the citizens input. I have researched and studied projects that were implemented under the current process with success, and observed a project currently implementing their build under an exemption imbedded in No.19-04 for Catholic Charities project Case No. 19927 after the ANC voted no to the project. Catholic Charities moved forward after obtaining a building permit and cut down the trees and killing all vegetation by spraying the five acres with a Roundup like substance more than once without informing the neighbors next to the property. They did not care about the health and welfare of the families next to them. This is a true example of what happens when developers are given free range without proper oversight and community input to protect their health, children and pets.

As solar technology advances the BZA Special Exception process will need modifications and enhancements to facilitate efficient, productive and safe incorporation into our infrastructure. The current proposed amendments has made expedited implementation of solar energy the priority and muted the environmental impacts and concerns. No considerations or provisions to address environmental runoff of Roundup like substance going into the Chesapeake Bay being ignored. Disaster planning in the event of wind storms, flooding, earthquakes, fires, etc.

Sincerely,

 7/26/19
Deborah Holmes
Washington, DC