

**Testimony of Rae Tamblyn
May 31, 2017**

**Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment
on
3015 4th Street NE Townhouse Development
BZA Case No. 19377: The Boundary Companies and The Missionary
Society**

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Rae Tamblyn. I am the Membership Manager with the North American Forest Partnership and I am a Certified Tree Advocate volunteer with Casey Trees.

I live up the street from St. Paul's College. Every day, on my 10 minute walk to Brookland Metro I walk by the lot under consideration for development by Boundary Cos. The other day, I saw a red-tailed hawk scanning for food in the morning and a flock of birds so thick in the branches, they looked and sounded like rustling leaves as they settled in for the night on my way home. The trees that are homes for these wildlife are my daily reminder that we can and must balance growth with a concern for natural infrastructure as the Brookland areas develops.

I ask that Boundary Cos. protect the grove of mature trees and plant more trees than they remove. Boundary Cos. can achieve this by locating the townhomes at the northern and southern ends of the site. In addition to providing habitat for birds and other urban wildlife and connecting me to the legacy of the wild and beautiful country we inherit, these trees help clean the air we breathe and the water that supports aspects of DC's economy, like the gorgeous views of the cherry blossoms by foot and by boat every spring and the Friday fishing events hosted by local non-profits.

Seeing the families moving into this area and growing up around me, I am reminded that living around trees also helps reduce stress, creates healthier communities, saves energy, and builds communities around shared green spaces.

I urge you to ask Boundary Cos. to relocate the proposed townhomes so this tree stand remains intact and continues to provide social, economic, and environmental value that lasts well beyond development.

Thank you for your consideration.