

December 14, 2016

Mr. Anthony Hood
Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: J Street PUD – Zoning Case 16-13

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Zoning Commission:

On behalf of the NoMa BID, I am writing to provide a general statement of support for additional development at 1109 Congress Street, NE, consistent with that being proposed through zoning case number 16-13.

The NoMa BID does not endorse specific projects per se. In principal, however, we consider the added density, affordable housing, PDR space and ground floor activation proposed as part of this development beneficial to the neighborhood. Ideally, however, more of the ground floor space would house small scale, local retail.

Today, Union Kitchen (a food incubator that is home to close to 50 small and locally owned businesses) is housed across Congress Street from this development site. They host occasional public events and are publically accessible. At the northern end of Congress Street is the southern entrance to REI's DC flagship store. A large residential project will eventually be built on the south side of L Street between 2nd and 3rd streets, NE facing this project. Congress Street at L Street has potential to be a retail location with tremendous character for creative DC businesses. Putting additional retail (or retail/PDR space) on the ground floor of 1109 Congress Street would help achieve this goal.

Sincerely,



Robin-Eve Jasper, President
NoMa Business Improvement District