



**National Capital Planning Commission  
Special Commission Meeting  
Final Recommendations on the Height Master Plan for Washington,  
DC  
NCPC File Number 6886**

November 19, 2013

Statement of Janet Quigley, President, Capitol Hill Restoration Society

Chairman Bryant and Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to testify once again on this matter. My name is Janet Quigley and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. CHRS has promoted historic preservation and residential quality of life on Capitol Hill for more than 50 years.

After numerous hours of hearings and discussions on the Height Act and Height Master Plan, just about everything has been said. This year-long process, diligently facilitated by the NCPC and DC Office of Planning staffs, has certainly made an important contribution to the dialogue on what one of the world's great capital cities is, can be and should be.

CHRS stands by its position that no changes to the Height Act are necessary, and continues to respectfully disagree with the Office of Planning's arguments for increases. Consistent with that position, we concur with Recommendations 1 and 3 of NCPC's Final Report: Barring increases within the L'Enfant City will retain the "landscape" character of the historically significant avenues that host our public buildings, and additional protections for the City's viewsheds are certainly important and welcome.

We do not concur with Recommendations 2 or 4. Washington DC is one city and all residents should benefit equally from its protections. Thus it is not necessary to establish a process to allow targeted exceptions for height outside the L'Enfant City. As for #4, occupied penthouses would be the camel's nose under the tent for ad-hoc increases and would invite "height creep," which would not serve the City well.

In summary, we commend NCPC for its exhaustive work on this important matter, and recommend the Commission reject any proposals related to height increases.

Thank you for your time.