Dirk Wiley Testimony

Thank you for the time to speak today. I'll be brief, because I believe many other people will talk about negative effects of the proposed Triumphal Arch; it's out of scale proportions for the district, it's effect on traffic, the embarrassing justification of national security, and its mere visual presence between the national mall and Arlington Cemetery.

Today, I want to speak about the commission's role in preserving the historic landscape of the district, and my concern that, like the east wing of the White House, work is moving forward without regard for any of the protections that we've developed over the last several decades. The commission's role, along with congress, in protecting the national park sites and historic district, should not be ignored, and the authority of the commission should not be given away.

As a retired National Park Service employee, I know the role that these legal and procedural hurdles play in preventing thoughtless development, and I'm asking the commission to play its appropriate role in deciding the future of this project.