EMI YAMAUCHI PUBLIC COMMENT
NOVEMBER 5, 2026 MEETING

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before this important Commission.

My statement is brief and to the point.

As a taxpayer, I am opposed to the use of any public monies for the design and construction of a frivolous vanity project at the behest of one megalomaniac individual.

As a U.S. citizen, I am appalled that we would try to emulate any 18th or 19th century — or for that matter Roman era — imperialist tradition by erecting an arch like this, which would overshadow and obstruct the view of Arlington National Cemetery. This cemetery is a sobering reminder of all those who suffered and sacrificed on behalf of **defending** our nation. It does not celebrate war, invasions, bombings, or glorify nah, nah, nah, nah-nah victories.

As a former D.C. resident who plans to return in the near future, I reject any more plans, any more destruction, and any more abominable architectural monstrosities to be forced upon us, just because we are hostages and captives of the federal government. This city is the capital of our country. It is not the personal fiefdom of whoever is temporarily occupying The White House.

As members of this Commission, it is your duty to protect and enhance the Capital's inherent historical beauty and symbolism in a uniquely American way. Leaving aside all of the legitimate concerns and challenges about the required approvals, funding, land use, single-source bidding, and peer review, the American people spoke this past Tuesday at the ballot box. They said enough vanity projects, enough corruption, enough Reflecting Pool travesties.

I urge you to reject these plans and this specific project. If anything is to be constructed on this land, it should go through the proper channels, with adequate time for peer review and public comment, and not be shoved down people's throats.