My name is Jamie Langston. I am a citizen of the United States, resident of Washington DC, and Veteran of the Gulf War.

As a Citizen, I oppose construction of the Arch on legal grounds. In our democracy, the government and its citizens are bound by LAW not the arbitrary whims of individuals — especially not those entrusted to serve the People.

As a resident of DC, I oppose its location, excessive size, lighting and garish design; the risks it poses to air, vehicle and pedestrian traffic; and most especially because it literally destroys the thoughtful symmetry of our historical landmarks and the deliberately open view shed of our Nation's Capitol and the 250 year history of our Democracy.

And as a Veteran, I am appalled by the vulgar disregard for our fallen heroes who rightly deserve to Rest in Peace.

My father-in-law was interred at Arlington on a bitterly cold day in March of 2014 in blizzard-like conditions. The entire city was shut down, including the federal government. But the solemn work at Arlington never ceases. The wind and snow viciously tore at our coats and stung our cheeks. The honor guard stood at attention, seemingly impervious to the elements as they rendered their dignified respects to Lieutenant Colonel Gary E. Langston, two tour Vietnam Veteran, helicopter pilot, husband and father of two boys. As the bugle sounded its slow and mournful final farewell, the earth stood still. The purity of each

note pierces your soul, mingles with your grief, and it never leaves you.

To desecrate that very personal and private space to grieve with the deafening thrum of construction drowning out Taps and later with the irreverent snipers taking selfies with tourists on the viewing deck is an obscene breach of trust between our Country and those who serve honorably.

This Arch honors no one. It destroys the sanctity of Arlington Cemetery in utter disrespect for the service and sacrifice of our Nation's heroes. And there is nothing — *nothing* more sickening or UNAmerican than disrespecting those who would literally die for our freedom.

Everyone on this committee has a choice. You can choose to approve this illegal project or like all of us Veterans past, present and future, you can put your country first. And if you won't do that simply by following the law, then shame on you, shame on every last one of you for enjoying the freedoms guaranteed by our collective service.