



Commission Members November 26, 2013

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The Honorable Phil Mendelson

Executive Director

Marcel C. Acosta

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Issa:

I am pleased to enclose the National Capital Planning Commission's Height Master Plan for Washington, DC report and recommendations. The Commission, which has Federal and District representation, reaffirms with these recommendations the importance of the Height Act and the federal government's enduring stewardship role in the form and character of the nation's capital. The report summarizes the technical analyses, agency coordination, and extensive public outreach that occurred, reflecting the complexity and importance of this topic.

On November 19, the Commission recommended that the federal Height Act remain in place city-wide, with the exception of amendments for penthouse occupancy. The federal government shares the District's vision for a strong, vital capital city that addresses long term challenges in a sophisticated, multidimensional way for the people of the District of Columbia and for all Americans. Recognizing that cities evolve over time, the Commission believes that there may be opportunities for strategic changes to the Height Act in areas outside of the L'Enfant City where there is less concentration of federal interests. However, sufficiently detailed and joint planning work through the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* is recommended prior to proposing any changes to the law. The Commission is prepared to continue this effort, but does not recommend amending the law today.

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Page - 2

Thank you for the opportunity to conduct this important study. If you have questions regarding the enclosed recommendations or report, please contact Marcel Acosta, Executive Director of the National Capital Planning Commission, at (202) 482-7200 or marcel.acosta@ncpc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Preston Bryant, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congresswoman, District of
Columbia
Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Mayor, District of Columbia
Harriet Tregoning, Director, DC Office of Planning