



VINCENT C. GRAY  
MAYOR

November 2, 2012

The Honorable Darrell Issa, Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Issa:

I am in receipt of your letter dated October 3, 2012 requesting that the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) work with the District to prepare a proposal and timetable for a study of building heights in the District of Columbia. During the July 19, 2012 hearing by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the National Archives on "*Changes to the Height Act: Shaping Washington, D.C., For the Future*," the Committee requested a joint study by the District of Columbia and NCPC of building heights, described as a "Height Master Plan," that would determine the extent to which the Height Act of Buildings Act of 1910 continues to serve both the federal and District government interests.

In response to the Committee's request, the District and NCPC developed a proposal and a timetable for the study, which was submitted by NCPC on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The study will be guided by the following principles:

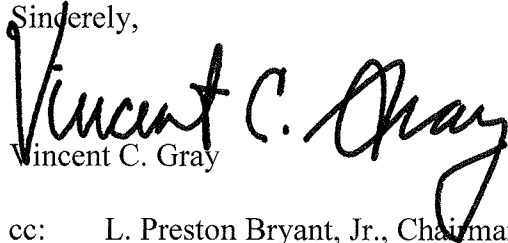
- ensuring the prominence of federal landmarks and monuments by preserving their views and setting;
- maintaining the horizontality of the monumental city skyline; and
- minimizing the negative impacts to nationally significant historic resources, including the L'Enfant Plan.

The study is expected to launch in December 2012. The DC Office of Planning is leading the District's efforts on the study and is already working closely with NCPC. NCPC and the District plan to submit the final recommendations from the study to the Committee by September 2013.

The District will partner with NCPC to consult with key federal agencies and the public and to obtain Commission action prior to final submission to the Committee.

If you or a member of your staff has any questions or comments, please contact Harriet Tregoning, Director of the DC Office of Planning, at 202-442-7636 or [harriet.tregoning@dc.gov](mailto:harriet.tregoning@dc.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Vincent C. Gray

cc: L. Preston Bryant, Jr., Chairman, National Capital Planning Commission  
Harriet Tregoning, Director, DC Office of Planning