

BARRY C. LEWIS

December 12, 2011

Chair and Members
City of Austin
Historic Landmark Comm'n.
301 W. 2nd Street
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Rezoning Application for 800 & 804 Congress Ave.
Reference C14-2011-0065

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for your time and service to our City.

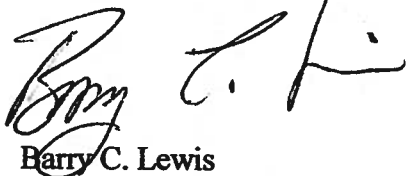
This letter is submitted on behalf of myself and my family. We value our view of the Capitol and urge you to continue to protect and preserve it for all Texans by continuing to honor and enforce the Congress Avenue Overlay.

The Congress Avenue Overlay is still a part of the City's ordinances. The Overlay was enacted in 1984 to preserve and protect Congress Avenue, the "main street of Texas", and the view of our historic Capitol. That goal, so admirable in 1984, is even more important today given the trend toward increased density in our CBD.

Encroachment into the still mandated view corridor should not be tolerated. The Applicants self-serving proposal for two (2) fifteen foot (15') setbacks, one half of the Congress Avenue Overlay requirement, will deprive all Texans of a view of their Capitol. Allowing the Applicants' proposal would be an insult to all those responsible owners and developers who have complied with the Overlay requirements in the development of the IBC, First American, Frost, 301 Congress, Austonian and Congress Center buildings. In addition, such an action would encourage future developments to seek the benefit of reduced setback requirements.

We urge you to disapprove the proposed setbacks and require the Applicants to conform to the Congress Avenue Overlay to the maximum extent consistent with preservation of the Bosche-Hogg facade.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry C. Lewis

cc: Heritage Society of Austin