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To the Members of the Durham Planning Board:

First, I want to express my gratitude for the many hours of devoted service that you have all given to our Town. Having served in both the NH House and the NH Senate for the princely sum of \$100 per year, I know that you are all motivated by a desire to do what is in the best interests of Durham with no thought of financial gain. To that end, I wonder what you believe the best interests of the town to be, as well as what our Conditional-Use Zoning for Mill Plaza requires.

My husband Doug and I have lived in our 27 Mill Road house since 1967. When we first came to Durham, what is now the Plaza was an undeveloped field. We hoped that it could become the town "green" or "common." It was sad to watch bulldozers tearing up the land, and I vowed that I would never shop at the new Shop 'n Save; however, the second day that it opened, I went in and realized how happy I was to have a grocery store within walking distance of my house.

We still enjoy all the businesses in the Plaza, but fail to see the any need for more student housing in the center of town, when student enrollments are expected to plunge dramatically within a few years. What we need is an enhanced multi-generational shopping center, not private dorms.

We have taken pride in living in one of the first 2 houses in what became the "Faculty Development." We enjoy having families of all sizes and ages around us, and we tolerate the noises and minor vandalism of students late at night who have probably had too much to drink. But we know that removing the buffer between our neighborhood and mass student housing (what is now the housing-free Plaza that quiets down at night) will add tremendously to the noise and vandalism. Please heed the expert input that you have received from Prof. Karen Weiss of West Virginia University as well as the extensive documentation you have received from so many other concerned residents.

We see NO ADVANTAGE to the town of creating a new multi-story student housing development at the edge of Durham's largest single-family neighborhood. I am particularly disturbed by the proposed violation of the required Brook buffer and the wanton destruction of the urban forest in the Plaza and the trees and land of "Church Hill."

We have always boasted about what a safe place Durham is to raise a family and, now, to grow old. We enjoy a community where we can walk to visit neighbors, walk to shop and eat downtown, and ride bicycles safely. Please do not destroy the core of our town with this unsightly, out-of-scale, and unnecessary building project. What benefit does it bring to those of us who live here? Only the developer will profit.

Fortunately, you have our Zoning Ordinance and its wetland zoning and Conditional Use restrictions to justify denial of this almost wholly non-compliant site plan.