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April 3, 2014

The Honorable Preston Bryant, Jr.
Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Bryant:

Our Nation's Capital is home to monuments, memorials, and other symbols of remembrance where countless Americans and overseas visitors come to reflect on the past and look toward a brighter future.

For those seeking freedom from oppression and enslavement, Lincoln's clenched hand and the unfinished Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial reminds us that despite wars fought in the past, liberty for all is still a work in progress. For those who lost loved ones in overseas wars, the Vietnam, Korean, and World War II memorials are a place to solemnly reflect about those who gave the last measure of devotion for this country. These structures have a profound impact, and their importance cannot be overstated.

For future generations, properly memorializing the legacy of those we seek to honor is vital to teach the valued lessons of those who helped pave the way. It has been nearly 15 years since President Clinton signed a law that authorized the construction of a memorial for the legacy of Dwight Eisenhower, a true military hero turned 34th President of the United States. Unfortunately, I believe it is going to take a little longer before this great President and General of the Army gets a groundbreaking for the memorial his legacy deserves.

Since joining the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) when I became Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I have spoken to my House and Senate colleagues on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, the Eisenhower family, and the architect of the design before us today.

I believe this design contains many admirable elements, but it also contains elements that have received justified opprobrium. Its immodesty is unbecoming of the humility and plain-spokenness that characterized our 34th President.

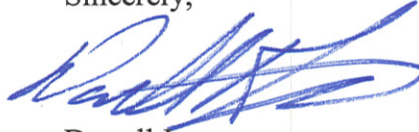
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In closing, I look forward to continuing to work with stakeholders to ensure we get this memorial right, not only for Ike, but for the future visitors who should be properly inspired by this great man. I would like to thank you, the other members of the Commission, and the staff for the hard work the NCPC has put into this and so many other issues of importance to this city and our country.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member