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February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Norman Rice, Chair  
Historic Resource Commission  
C/o Richard Nicholson  
City of Albany  
Department of Development & Planning  
200 Henry Johnson Boulevard  
Albany, NY 12207

RE: Lower Washington Avenue Historic District Nomination

Dear Mr. Rice:

As resident and elected official representing downtown Albany and this specific area in question, I am writing to express my strong support for the listing of the Lower Washington Avenue Historic District as a locally landmarked historic district within the city of Albany.

Washington Avenue from Swan Street to Lark Street is filled with historically and architecturally significant buildings. Many were designed by notable Albany architects and were constructed for some of the city's most prominent citizens. Although the buildings vary in style and use, they come together to form a diverse, urban corridor into the heart of New York's capital city. Indeed, many constituents of mine appreciate living in this corridor for these very reasons.

As the historic gateway into Albany's downtown center of government, land-marking will ensure that this particular stretch of Washington Avenue is well preserved and protected for future generations. Preserving the historic fabric of this stretch of Washington Avenue will also encourage appropriate urban development, contribute to a dense cityscape and support the residents and businesses who live and work on that main thoroughfare.

Additionally, it should be noted that such a designation fits well within Albany's current comprehensive plan and its goals. Indeed, such a designation would complement the adjacent

neighborhoods of Washington Park, and Center Square. In my opinion, it makes complete sense to support the designation of this additional thoroughfare to keep this entire area protected.

I strongly pledge my support for the Lower Washington Avenue Historic District and urge the Historic Resource Commission to recommend this nomination for listing as a locally landmarked historic district.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Higgins  
Albany County Legislator, 6<sup>th</sup> District