



Department of Community Development
City of Mercer Island
3505 88th Southeast
Mercer Island, Washington 98040

Re: Application for Variance by Mr. and Mrs. John Smock dated 4/7/83

Dear Sirs:

We own the home situated at 8415 Southeast 87th Street, which is six homes west of the subject property.

We vehemently protest this zoning variance request.

This application for variance states that this variance will not alter the character of the neighborhood. This is not a true statement. This would really crowd and alter our beautiful neighborhood and bring down our property values.

We purchased our Mercer Island waterfront home because we wanted to live in a prestigious neighborhood where home values maintain a high level. We had a choice - we could have purchased a waterfront home in another area for half the price and half the taxes. But, we chose to live on Mercer Island.

Sitting in a boat, out in the middle of the lake, you can't help but notice the difference between Seattle and Mercer Island. A neighborhood pride is reflected on the Mercer Island waterfront with the large lots and beautiful well kept homes. Looking toward the Seattle side, with its inferior zoning restrictions, you can see what the small lots can do for a neighborhood - what a crowded, ill kept mess. Do we want to risk our beautiful Island looking like this in the future?

We are urging that the City of Mercer Island refuse this variance request and not set precedent. Jacobson on Lot 17 and 18 could be after a variance next month; he has room to build a great big house down by the water; he could always rent out the one he is now living in! The Johnson's on Lot 26 and 27 could apply for even another variance - they should be able to squeeze in another house where the garage is now standing. There is probably room to squeeze in a Mobile Home between Fugets house and the lake since Lot 14 is pretty big.

But - nobody would let this happen to our beautiful Mercer Island and that is why we are protesting this zoning variance request.

Sincerely,

Leo Olbu

Dee Olbu