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*"Established in 1980 to protect
the cultural and architectural
heritage of Greenwich Village"*

April 27, 2004

Hon. Robert Tierney:
Chair, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

On behalf of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, I urge the Commission to complete the task of designating NoHo as a Landmark District. At the time of its original consideration almost five years ago, it was understood that all of the areas covered by the originally proposed boundaries would be considered for designation soon thereafter.

With the addition of the Noho East Historic District in 2003, only the Bond and Great Jones Street corridors, and parts of East 4th and Lafayette Streets and the Bowery remain undesignated. However, these are very significant pieces of the Noho fabric, and contain numerous architecturally and historically significant structures, including several loft structures and 19th century townhouses. There is virtually unanimous support within Noho's residential community in favor of designation of this last remaining area, and strong support from local elected officials and the Community Board.

With an increasing number of applications for variances in the undesignated area being presented to the Board of Standards and Appeals, there is a great deal of concern about the future of this neighborhood and its buildings. A modification of the zoning law, recently approved by the City Planning Commission, provides some planning controls for M15-A and M15-B districts, but these apply only to designated historic districts.

The rest of Noho deserves the benefits of historic district designation. I urge you to take up these remaining undesignated areas, to ensure that the entirety of Noho is preserved.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director