

**J. B. BROWN & SONS**  
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January 12, 2010

Jean Fraser  
Planner  
Portland Planning Office  
389 Congress Street  
Portland, Maine 04101

Re: Oak Street Discontinuation

Dear Jean,

Thank you for the time spent discussing the Oak Street discontinuation request by the Holiday Inn. J.B. Brown & Sons owns several large office buildings and significant development land in the area and we have concerns regarding the discontinuation of portion of Oak Street between Spring and Pleasant.

From the limited information available at this time regarding the project design, we would not support a discontinuation of the lower portion of Oak Street. The pedestrian access linking the Gorham Corner area to the Congress Square area is used by many in the neighborhood. The elimination of this link would create an uninterrupted city block probably longer than any other in Portland. This seems to frustrate the goal of keeping Portland a pedestrian friendly community.

The loss of Oak Street eliminates an important access point to and from an area that has seen significant development in the last few years, including the addition of companies like Portland Pie, Cranberry Island Kitchens, El Rayo, numerous office tenants, and the development of 40+ new housing units at 53 Danforth.

Despite the Community Development Committee's "approval" of the discontinuation, I should point out that the recommendation was made at a meeting without notification to the surrounding stockholders for their input. The interest in economic development by the CDC is appreciated, but I believe there are greater economic benefits to the larger community by keeping Oak Street accessible to pedestrians.

Sincerely,



Vincent P. Veroneau  
President