Dear Mr. Cohen,  
  
       As a resident of the western end of Back Bay who regularly walks, drives, dines and shops in the neighborhood, I am writing you to add my voice to the many beseeching you to withhold your endorsement of the proposed development at 1000 Boylston. The design as it is currently proposed solves none of the site's problems and, in fact, significantly worsens several of its existing negative qualities.  
  
Walk down Newbury or Boylston Street sometime, paying attention to how the street life feels in sun vs. shadow and you'll see why it is so important to keep sun falling on Back Bay's pedestrian areas.  
  
 Erecting a "spine" of high rises along the highest point of Back Bay right next to Boylston and Newbury Streets is ruining the pedestrian experience precisely in the area that gives Back Bay its desirability as real estate.  
  
There are two streets I will avoid walking on at all costs because they are almost invariably windy and unpleasant: Clarendon along the Hancock Tower and Belvidere along the Hynes and Sheraton. I can only imagine how much nastier that area will be with another blank tower looming over Belvidere.  
  
The Hynes Convention Center cuts off pedestrian access from the neighborhood to the south, and its blank, featureless expanse deters pedestrians from walking from Hereford to Mass Ave on Boylston, creating a no man's land. What an amazing opportunity it would be to develop these parcels in a way that connected, not divided! Low buildings mixed with flexible-use outdoor spaces (we have an awful lot of performers right around the corner at Berklee, after all!) would unite the neighborhood and create a pedestrian friendly corridor from the Public Garden to Fenway.  
  
Comm Ave was ruined by the overpass, but on Boylston we could still create an attractive, well planned route for the folks living in the new Fenway buildings to walk over to the shops and restaurants of Back Bay, and vice versa. It could be a glorious addition to the Boston cityscape!  
  
Just because we've made terrible city planning mistakes in the past, doesn't mean we should give up and just design to the lowest architectural denominator! Please send this proposal back to the drawing board. Don't let developers pressure the City to "bend the rules" in return for a few infrastructure improvements--stand your ground and insist they design buildings in the City's best interests, not just their own.  
  
Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Murphy