



MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

The Agassiz Museum

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Mr. Stephen R. Karp
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Boston Childrens' Hospital
3 Possum Road
Weston, MA 02493

Dear Mr. Karp:

I write on behalf of the Prouty Garden, and hope for both a private reply and, better, a public response.

To introduce myself, I am a scientist (National Medal of Science, 1976) and author (Pulitzer Prize, 1979, 1991), with special expertise on the relation of natural environments to the humanities and public health. In the late 1970s, I introduced the concept of biophilia, which is now well-developed in biology and medicine, and the base of a growing school of architecture.

I've recently studied the background on the plan to replace the Prouty Garden with a new building. I've also read some of the protests against this plan, and learned that little or no response has been forthcoming. Finally, I've been told that alternative sites exist which, if used, would save the Prouty Garden.

I believe that what you plan will put you on the wrong side of history. Scientific evidence, obtained in both Europe and the U. S., support the claims made for the healing powers of natural environments adjacent to and within hospitals. The Prouty Garden has more than just great practical value in medicine. It is also a source of comfort for patients and their families. Further, it has become a symbol of those values for which Boston is famous.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. O. Wilson'.

Edward O. Wilson

EOW:kmh