Philadelphia Historical Commission  
One Parkway, 13th Floor  
1515 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Attention: Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D., Executive Director

Dear Dr. Farnham:

The purpose of this letter is to convey the strong support of our organization regarding the nomination of the Disston-Tacony Industrial Waterfront Historic District to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

The former Disston Saw Works complex, roughly bounded by Unruh Avenue, State Road, Longshore Avenue and the Delaware River, symbolizes the genesis of the Tacony neighborhood we know today and helped define Philadelphia’s notorious place at the “Workshop of the World.” With good reason, the Disston name is ubiquitous throughout our neighborhood, reflected in churches, streets, a school, park and recreation center. The preservation of the Saw Works complex through historic designation is very important to the community as this will serve as a focal point for learning about Tacony’s rich industrial heritage.

The designation will also help ensure that nearly two dozen contributing structures over 16 parcels can be properly maintained and continue to serve as functional shop space or be adapted for alternative uses. This mostly intact industrial village could serve as a model for the preservation of similar complexes as well. We would like to recognize the fine work of Oscar Bersert and Alexander Balloon on this nomination, and thank the Historical Commission for its consideration.

Very truly yours,

Louis M. Iatarola, President

cc: Tacony CDC

6913 Tulip Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135 (215) 338-8790
Tacony-Disston Community Development National Historic District