5712 Sherier Pl., NW
Washington, DC 20016
May 8, 2003

2003 MAY 13 PM 4:49 D.C.

Ms. Carol Mitten
Chair, DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St., NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Mitten:

Re.Cases 0230 and 0231(Opposed to rezoning of land; Request to testify 5/19)

This is to register my opposition to the granting of a request to Georgetown University (GU) for the rezoning of land and the construction of a large boathouse, upstream and west of Key Bridge, within the confines of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. This also is a request to testify at the hearing May 19, 2003 on this subject.

I believe the proposed location and size of the structure are wrong. I believe the parkland should remain parkland. I also believe during construction, maintenance and servicing of the private facility, users of the Capital Crescent Trail would be unsafe. The views from the Towpath would be compromised, due to the height of the proposed structure, and boat traffic would be limited, due to long docks that would extend out into the Potomac River. Furthermore, the envirionmental assessment for a land exchange related to the GU boathouse proposal – produced before the size of the boathouse structure was known – is over five years old and needs updating. While I am pro-boathouses, I believe there is an alternative site east of Key Bridge for this purpose.

As a resident of the District of Columbia for forty years, and a homeowner in the Palisades neighborhood, I have treasured the Potomac River and surrounding parkland for many decades. I value the C&O National Historical Park and Potomac River Valley as the longest and narrowest National Park in the country, located only a short walk from the center of downtown Washington. As a biker, hiker and boater, I am grateful that we have such natural beauty at our doorstep. With the increase of population in the region, we should do everything possible to ensure that green spaces are preserved for future generations.

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of the legendary walk along the Towpath by Justice Douglas, that led to the creation of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, let us renew our efforts to protect and preserve our parklands.

Please limit any new development along the Potomac River to areas east of Key Bridge, and do not grant the zoning request to Georgetown University.

Sincerely,

Sally C. Strain

SALLY C. STRAIN

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 123

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.123