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May 13, 2003

Ms. Carol Mitten
Chair, D.C. Zoning Commission
441 4th St., N.W., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Mitten:

Re: Cases 02-30 and 02-31

As a supporter of expanded recreational and athletic opportunities for all D.C. residents, but especially for our children, I urge you to support the change in zoning that would allow Georgetown University to build a boathouse on the Potomac River.

For many years, there has been a drastic shortage of boathouse space on the Potomac River. As rowing has grown rapidly in popularity, especially among high school students, the facilities available for rowers have not only not grown – they are about to be cut back substantially. Thompson's Boat Center, where most local high school rowers row, will soon be forced to close the outdoor compound where most high school rowing shells are stored to make way for the new Swedish Embassy. Without additional boathouse space, high school rowing on the Potomac will essentially be ended.

We need the new Georgetown University Boathouse to relieve crowding at Thompson's and allow the high school boats to be moved indoors. While the new boathouse will occupy a small piece of existing parkland next door to the Washington Canoe Club, this lot is a tiny part of the two-mile stretch of parkland extending from Key Bridge to Fletcher's Cove. The prolonged negotiations to find a piece of land on which Georgetown could build a boathouse have made clear that no other suitable land is available. If this land is not made available for a boathouse, no boathouse is likely to be built, and rowing opportunities for our children are likely to be lost indefinitely.

I urge you to support the proposed change in zoning.

Sincerely yours,

John V. Wells

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 126

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.126