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

Re: Cases 02-30 and 02-31

Dear Ms. Mitten:

As a parent of a high school rower, I am writing to urge you to support the requested change in zoning that would allow Georgetown University to build a boathouse on the Potomac River. I believe the proposed project would result in expanded recreational and athletic opportunities for all D.C. residents, but especially for our children, for the following reasons.

For many years now, there has been a drastic shortage of boathouse space on the Potomac River, even in light of increasing demand for such facilities. As rowing has increased 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. If no additional boathouse space is provided to compensate for this loss , high school rowing on the Potomac may effectively be ended. The planned Georgetown University project would provide such relief.

The area high school rowing programs urgently need the new Georgetown University Boathouse to relieve crowding at Thompson's and allow their 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

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 127

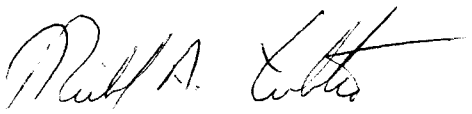
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.127

likely to be built, and rowing opportunities for our children are likely to be lost indefinitely.

As to the concerns raised by those who oppose the project, I would respectfully submit they should furnish you with tangible credible evidence to validate those concerns. While I consider myself an "environmentalist", I have seen no evidence to support the allegations the planned project would cause any material damage to the surrounding environment, but only speculation and conjecture. I would respectfully submit that if no such evidence is produced, such claims should be rejected as unfounded.

For the reasons set forth above, I urge you to support the proposed change in zoning.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Crabtree
Attorney at Law

CC: John G. Parsons, Assoc. Regional Director