4318 Westover Place, NW
Washington, DC 2001
May 15, 2003

Ms. Carol Mitten
Chairperson
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Suite 210
441 - 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2003 MAY 16 PM 3:43

Re: Case 02-30, Georgetown University Boat House

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I write to urge the Zoning Commission to grant the appropriate zoning approvals for the construction of the Georgetown University boathouse.

The boathouse will be a significant asset to the District of Columbia and a sound, environmentally sound use of the site and of the Potomac River. Rowing is a non-polluting sport that is surging in popularity, and a sport that enjoys particular support in Washington. Washington's combination of educational and employment opportunities and superb rowing conditions on the Potomac River make the District of Columbia a leading rowing center; the District has been the training site for hundreds of Olympic and U.S. National team members, as well as thousands of collegiate, high school, and recreational rowers.

Georgetown University's proposed new boathouse will be an important addition to this community. In addition to providing a permanent home for the men's and women's rowing programs at Georgetown University, the boathouse will free up space at Thompson Boat Center for the many District of Columbia high school rowing programs and community rowing programs located there. As it stands, Thompson Boat Center is filled beyond capacity, forcing District of Columbia high school rowing programs to wait long periods of time while other high school crews launch their shells from the limited dock space. This overcapacity problem will be exacerbated by the construction of the new Swedish embassy adjacent to the Washington Harbour complex. Currently, many high school crews store their boats on the lot where the new embassy will be located; once construction begins, those high school crews will be without necessary boat storage space.

Rowing itself is an environmentally-friendly recreational activity enjoyed by men and women of all ages. It enjoys broad support in the Washington community, and is both ecologically and historically appropriate for the stretch of the Potomac along the District of Columbia. (Boathouses have been a major feature of this stretch of the Potomac for more than 130 years.) There simply is no better, nor more appropriate, use for this site that the proposed Georgetown University boathouse.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 171

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.171

I respectfully urge you and the Commission to issue the necessary approvals for the boathouse.

Very truly yours,

Creighton Magid