TOM HOFFMAN

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May 15, 2003

D.C. ZONING
2003 MAY 19 PM 2:56

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

Re: Zoning Tract 102-114

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I am a native Washingtonian who lived in the metro area for over fifty years. I still maintain close ties to the city, despite my relocation to southwestern Virginia. I am an ardent hiker and nature lover, and I know the hiking trails in and around DC like the proverbial back of my hand.

I am asking your board to reject the rezoning request by Georgetown University to build a boathouse on the above-captioned parcel. It would seriously compromise the sensitive environment of the Potomac River and the adjoining portion of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. It would encroach on the popular Capital Crescent Trail, and would block the scenic views of the river by trail users on both the CCT and the canal towpath. There are numerous alternate sites for this boathouse downstream from Key Bridge that would be much more environmentally acceptable.

Last but not least, swapping a piece of a national park over to the private sector would set a very dangerous legal precedent. What would be next – an oil company using the same tactic to grab a piece of Yellowstone Park for drilling?

Please enter my comments into the official record. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Hoffman

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 188

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.188