4516 Alton Place, NW
Washington, DC 20016
May 14, 2003

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

2003 MAY 16 PM 2:57

Re: Cases 02-30 and 02-31

Dear Ms. Mitten:

As the parent of a Wilson High School student who has benefited greatly from its rowing program, I urge you to support the change in zoning that would allow Georgetown University to build its boathouse on the proposed site.

The benefits of the new boathouse would accrue not only to Georgetown but to over a dozen local high schools, public and private, and about 800 high school rowers. Without the new boathouse, due to other land use decisions that have already been approved, there will soon be no storage space on the Potomac for high school shells, which would effectively end high school rowing in DC.

The problem is that approval has already been granted for construction of a new Swedish embassy on the site of the outdoor compound at Thompson's Boat Center, which is where most of the high school equipment is stored. If Georgetown could remove its equipment to its own boathouse, indoor space would become available for the high school teams. Otherwise, it is difficult to see how the high school programs could continue.

This project has been under consideration for years and should not be blocked by eleventh-hour opposition of the sort described in today's Washington *Post*. The environmental and aesthetic arguments described in the article are ludicrous. There is no place to build a boathouse but on a body of water. Philadelphia's boathouses are part of the scenery there. Washington could use more of them. After years of searching and study, this is the most suitable site available. The Commission should not permit a project of demonstrated benefit to the community to be halted now because of *de minimis* purported environmental impacts, subjective and selfish aesthetic considerations, lingering town-gown antagonisms, petty jealousies, or generalized NIMBY-ism.

Please consider the interests of the larger DC community and permit the Georgetown boathouse project to go forward as proposed.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. O'Sullivan

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 192

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.192