Harold A. Larsen
1314 Kurtz Road
McLean, VA 22101-4017

May 15, 2003

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Director, Office of Zoning
441 4th Street NW, #210S
Washington DC 20001

Dear Sir,

I was dismayed to learn about Georgetown University's plan to build a large boathouse on a site on National Park property adjacent to the C&O Canal towpath. This rambling, intrusive structure would adversely affect the towpath by making it impossible for walkers and bikers to view the Potomac River and Key Bridge. I believe this would have an unpleasant impact on this heavily used path.

Because I frequently use the towpath for recreational walking, I strongly oppose having such a large building placed between the path and the river. Such construction in the park would be an unwelcome precedent for further development between the canal and the river.

Beyond my personal objections to such an inappropriate structure, I would remind you that the entire Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This linear parkland thus belongs not just to us in the region but to the American people. I believe we who live here are obligated to protect this property for the nation, not just for our enjoyment but for visitors to Washington from elsewhere. Thus to place a building to satisfy parochial desires would be an offense not just against our citizens who use the towpath but against the American people as a whole. Therefore, it would be unacceptable to use parkland for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Harold A Larsen

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 194

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.194