7210 Marlan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22037
May 18, 2003

Zoning Commission
Carol Mitten, Chair
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Case 02-30, Georgetown University Boathouse

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing to support Georgetown University's request for a zoning determination that would permit them to build the boathouse that they have been planning along the Potomac River.

For the past 6 years I have been a member of the Board of the Georgetown Visitation High School Crew Boosters, the parents group that supports the school's athletic department and crew team. I have also been working on boathouse issues for most of those years.

The sport of rowing has been very popular along this stretch of the Potomac especially in the last two decades. High school participation on the Georgetown waterfront has more than quadrupled, and college and adult participation has also grown dramatically. Men and women participate in nearly equal numbers at all these levels. It has been estimated that 1500-2000 people participate actively here. Rowing accounts for more people-hours of recreational river use per year in this location than any other activity. Therefore use of land for boathouses along the river is both appropriate and in the public interest.

The members of the rowing community have worked for a number of years with each other and with various governmental bodies, such as the National Park Service, to develop a comprehensive plan for boathouse space that respects the many uses that the waterfront must serve. The Georgetown University boathouse is an integral part of the overall plan. Without the Georgetown University boathouse as it is envisioned, the rest of the plan will not hold together and the public interest would not be served. Not only would the entire rowing community (including the high schools) suffer but other members of the public would also be impacted if boathouse space must be relocated where it would be more intrusive on other waterfront uses.

ZONING COMMISSION
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Exhibit 282

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CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.282

I am hopeful that the Commission will approve and support this request for rezoning to permit Georgetown University to build a boathouse according to the overall plan that they along with the National Park Service and many others (including the local high schools) have prepared.

Sincerely,



James A. Ungerleider