Lewis Rumford
5020 Macomb Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016

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

Reference Case # 02-30, Georgetown University Boathouse

Dear Commission Members,

After all the time, effort, careful study, community input, and cooperation that has characterized the plan for the Georgetown University Boathouse, it is stunning to think that anyone would now oppose this significant civic enhancement. We citizens are lucky to have one of the great river rowing venues in the country here in Washington, and rowing is surely one of the most benign and attractive waterfront uses possible. Rowing is not a new activity on this river, it has been going on here for approximately 150 years, and boathouses west of Key Bridge have always been part of the picture, even when Georgetown was a working industrial port.

Presumably, the opponents to this plan have not considered much, and I suspect they do not appreciate how important the Georgetown University boathouse is to people not associated with Georgetown, but who love the possibility of expanding the park uses along the Potomac. Those of us familiar with rowing on the Potomac know that it is important for Georgetown University to have their own location in order to free up space for other users at Thompson's Boathouse, a public facility.

I am writing this letter as a private citizen of Washington, DC who would like to support the sensible development of parks and recreation along the Potomac. The Georgetown University boathouse is very much a part of that vision. In the interest of full disclosure, I also work for George Washington University and have spent much of the past year trying to resolve the riverfront rowing issues for GW, the high schools, and the other non-motorized river users. I would be happy to share all that I have learned, but an essential conclusion is that the Georgetown University boathouse is terribly important to the District because rowing itself is an important recreational activity with enormous benefits – not the least of which is enhanced appreciation of the natural environment.

I am suspect of the motives of anyone who waited until this moment to surface objections to this plan. The process has taken far too long already. I do hope that the zoning commission will use its good offices to expedite this needed enhancement to our precious waterfront. The benefits will be countless, and we should all be glad that Georgetown University is willing to commit to such a sensitive and exemplary plan.

Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 227

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.227

TO: DC Zoning Commission - Fax: 727-6072

Please file in the record of
Case No. 02-30.

D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2003 MAY 28 AM 10:14