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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 on Tract 102-114.

Since 1997, I have lived and worked continuously in Washington, D.C. Since the very first week I moved to the city, I have derived immense aesthetic pleasure from the Potomac River -- from the wildlife it continues to support, the opportunities it provides for non-motorized boating, and the sheer pleasure of jogging, hiking, and bicycling along its banks. I have long been an active member of several local and national environmental organizations. I very strongly and enthusiastically support the proposal for the Georgetown boathouse.

One of the many pleasing aspects of the Potomac is the presence of rowing shells. Indeed, it is a distinctive image represented in numerous paintings, photographs and posters of the river. Indeed, at one time there were as many as six boathouses along the Georgetown stretch of the Potomac River. Rowing, and the culture of people of all ages rowing on the Potomac River, adds to the quality of life for everyone. It is aesthetically pleasing to watch, and it represents people using the river and the public resources in a healthy, constructive manner. And plainly there is a need for additional facilities for rowing on the Potomac River. This is a growing, environmentally sensitive outdoor activity that should be encouraged in the interest of all residents of our city.

It is very clear that this zoning proposal is appropriate and in the public interest. The design received extremely favorable comment from the Old Georgetown Board and the Fine Arts Commission, the agencies charged with reviewing and making design decisions for the Georgetown area and the District of Columbia. The building site is immediately upstream of Washington Canoe Club, within the zone identified by the National Park Service in the mid-80's for non-motorized boating facilities. The objections that have been raised are poorly informed, insubstantial, late in the process and

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not in the public interest. The boathouse that is envisioned would be of reasonable size, would be non-polluting, and would not create any regular vehicular traffic to the site. The dock would not be in the way of other river users. The planned site would preserve park space east of Key Bridge for other uses.

I urge the Commission to approve this request for rezoning to permit Georgetown University to build a boathouse according to the plan that they and many others have worked out.

Sincerely,

Seth P. Waxman