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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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May 29, 2003

Ms. Carol J. Mitten, Chairperson
Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Cases 02-30, 02-31 — Georgetown University Boathouse

Dear Chairperson Mitten:

I am writing to support the application of Georgetown University and the National Park Service in Cases 02-30 and 02-31, to enable Georgetown to construct a boathouse along the Potomac in the vicinity of 34th Street NW.

As a 20 year District resident, I have enjoyed hiking in this area of the waterfront park and have enjoyed canoeing in this section of the Potomac. I look forward to continuing these activities after the Georgetown boathouse is built.

Importantly, the new Georgetown boathouse will prevent the elimination of the Wilson High School Crew program, in which my son currently participates. Wilson High School is the only DC public school with a crew program and is dependent — along with other local high school teams and Georgetown University — upon the overcrowded Thompson Boathouse and the adjoining fenced in outdoor area for storage of its boats. Unfortunately, the fenced in area next to Thompson's is slated to be eliminated within the next two years for construction of the new Swedish embassy. When that happens, if Georgetown is not able to leave Thompson's and move its boats to its own boathouse, Wilson and many other local schools will be forced to end much if not all of their crew programs for lack of access to any suitable storage facility.

I am concerned that a small group of persons associated with the Washington Canoe Club boathouse is, at the eleventh hour, orchestrating opposition to the Georgetown boathouse solely to preserve that portion of the park for their own enjoyment. This is particularly obnoxious since they saw fit not to participate in the application process up to this point. I believe the city should seek be inclusive and not succumb to the last-minute protestations of small special interest groups seeking to exclude all others from their corner of the park. This is especially true given the severe impact that denial of this application would have upon hundreds of high school students in the DC area, including those at Wilson High School.

As I noted above, I fully expect to enjoy hiking and canoeing in and around this area of the park during and after the construction of the Georgetown boathouse. There is room for all of us.

Sincerely,

Donald Squires

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 239

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.239