703-323-1484 **Potomac Pedalers Touring Club** **10366 Democracy Lane**
Fairfax, VA 22030

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Carol Mitten, Chair, DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St. NW Suite 210
Washington DC 20001

May 28, 2003

The Potomac Pedalers Touring Club, an organization of road cycling enthusiasts in the DC Metropolitan region, with over 2500 members, would like to be noted as being on record against the proposed Georgetown University Boathouse currently before the DC Zoning Commission (cases 02-30 and 02-31).

The information about damage to wetlands, wildlife habitat, and the view from the C&O Canal has been expressed by organizations more directly involved with habitat and environmental protection, such as the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club. This club agrees with that viewpoint as well, but would like to address specifically the encroachment on the Capital Crescent Trail. We feel strongly that the Capital Crescent Trail should not be available to motorists; the whole point of such a trail is so that cyclists, runners, and other pedestrians can exercise or commute without having to be concerned about vehicular traffic. While the proposal envisions a separate path for vehicles, the proximity of that path to the trail puts trail users at risk for a collision with a careless vehicular operator. Along its entire 700+ length the users of the trail will be squeezing between the access road on one side and an embankment up to the towpath on the other, creating difficulty when passing other users of the trail coming from the opposite direction. I suspect that there will eventually be an injury as unsuspecting trail users are suddenly confronted by a motorist, or conversely a motorist swings onto the trail not realizing that it is heavily used by pedestrians.

Potomac Pedalers supports the Park Service proposal to close to most vehicular traffic a portion of the street leading up to the Capital Crescent Trail and to improve access to the trailhead from other trails. However, we do not support allowing vehicles to drive next to the trail.

Michael Cohen, MD
Chairman
Potomac Pedalers Touring Club

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 254

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.254