POTOMAC RIVER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

119 Fifth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002

June 3, 2003

02-30

Alberto P. Bastida, AICP, Secretary to the Zoning Committee
Office of Zoning, Suite 210
441 4th St NW
Washington, DC 20001

Subj: Comments on Georgetown University's proposed boathouse on the Potomac River

Dear Mr. Bastida;

Summary of Statement:
The proposed Georgetown University (GU) Rowing Facility is the wrong facility in the wrong location on the river. It takes away valuable parkland from public use for the benefit of a relatively small group of persons. It sets an unfortunate precedent for excessively large buildings on an undeveloped section of the Potomac River. Georgetown University should select a different site south of the Key Bridge for its rowing facility.

The Potomac River Pilots Association (PRPA) would like the zoning Commission to consider the views of our professional association of Coast Guard licensed river Captains as the Commission considers the application of Georgetown University (GU) to build a rowing facilityon the Potomac River upriver from the Key Bridge.

The PRPA supports GU efforts to improve its rowing athletic program. The PRPA supports the use of the Potomac River for commerce and recreation by all parties including small canoe clubs to the ocean going vessels that call at Robinson Terminal in Alexandria and the Washington waterfront. The Potomac River is a remarkable area resource that should be reserved for use by the greatest number of citizens.

The Potomac River Pilots Association believes that the Georgetown Rowing facility is an excessively large facility proposed for a site that is best left as parkland for the benefit of all citizens. Georgetown may need a rowing facility (as do many other local colleges and universities), but such a facility is best located at a site other than on a very narrow strip of National Park land without road access that is located between the Potomac River and the Capital Crescent Trail and C&O Canal.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 323

ZONING COMMISSION
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CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.323

A boathouse in the area of the Three Sisters Islands is inconsistent with maximizing the number of diverse activities on the river and the greatest benefit to the greatest number of individuals. PRPA supports a Georgetown rowing facility; but recommends against approving this excessively large facility on public parkland along the Potomac River. There are other better sites for what would be essentially a private rowing facility.

Sincerely yours,

Ned Chalker, President
Potomac River Pilots Association