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June 5, 2003

Zoning Commission
Carol Mitten, Chair
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Case 02-30 Georgetown University Boathouse

Dear Members of the Commission;

I am writing to express my strong support to grant permission to Georgetown University to construct a new boathouse on the Potomac River on Tract 102-114 in Georgetown. This structure is certainly in keeping with the area's centuries long tradition of being an active waterfront. The boathouse will benefit the university's rowing program and the rapidly growing high school rowing program by allowing room to accommodate sculls from the many high schools that use the Georgetown waterfront that will be displaced by the closing of an outdoor storage area.

My daughter has been a rower for the past three years at a local high school. Rowing is a wonderful sport. It helps to develop the participants athletically, it teaches them how to work together with others and it exposes them to a wonderful natural resource – the Potomac River. Rowing is one of the least intrusive activities to our local environment and it should be encouraged. It would be a shame if this facility were not permitted to go ahead. That would deny many, many people the opportunity to enjoy the river by actually being on the water without polluting it in the process.

Please do not lose sight of the fact that the Georgetown waterfront is a vibrant urban environment only a few thousand yards from White House and the U.S. Congress. It is not a wilderness area and was never intended to be treated like one. The Georgetown University boathouse is a well planned and well coordinated project. I hope that this Commission will grant whatever permits are required to allow this project to move forward.

Sincerely,

Arnold J. O'Donnell

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 330

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.330