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USA Canoe/Kayak

2003 JUN 19 AM 9:45
DC ZONING

June 15, 2003

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

Re: Proposed Georgetown Boathouse

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I am writing to express the concern of USA Canoe/Kayak, the National Governing Body of Canoe/Kayak in the United States, regarding the location of the proposed Georgetown boathouse. As you know, the currently proposed location will have a dramatic negative impact on the nations oldest canoe/kayak club, the historic Washington Canoe Club (WCC). Since the early 1900's, the WCC has been situated close to the site of the proposed Georgetown boathouse. The WCC is home to Olympic athletes past, present, and future. The facilities are used for training and competition by athletes throughout the country and the world. The WCC is unique in that its membership includes the first American gold medalist in canoe/kayak, as well as having placed athletes on almost every Olympic team the U.S. has fielded in the sport.

The proposed boathouse docks will cause the currently used racecourse of the WCC to become unusable- and this is a course that dates back one hundred years. Equally as important, the area used by the WCC is the only stretch of the Potomac suitable for holding sprint canoe/kayak racing- thus the proposed Georgetown docks would end sprint racing on the Potomac for this first time in a century. Additional impact would be to severely diminish any parking for athletes using the club in addition to the negative environmental impact the Sierra Club and other environmental groups have noted.

On behalf of USACK, I would urge the Zoning Commission to oppose the Georgetown application for the proposed boathouse.

Very truly yours;
Anne Louise Blanchard
President, USA Canoe/Kayak
Board of Directors

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 338

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CASE NO.02-30
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