April 28, 2003

Dear Ms Mitten,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the construction of the Georgetown University Boathouse, Case No. 02-30. The loss of public parkland in such close proximity to the city, the loss of wildlife habitat for the deer, fox, beaver and other animals now seen from the Crescent Trail, even the loss of the view of Key Bridge from the tow path will change the nature of that area of the riverbank forever, When Justice William O. Douglas fought to preserve the C and O Canal as parkland, I can't imagine that he would have exempted the portion closest to the heavily populated area of Georgetown.

Boathouses are certainly appropriate and desirable along the river, but a boathouse that dwarfs all other structures nearby is a poor choice for this site. A private boathouse whose access gobbles a portion of the much-loved, much-used Crescent Trail benefits only an infinitesimally small proportion of the population served by the parkland. The estimated construction time of two years, with heavy construction vehicles working in close proximity to the year-round crowd of cyclists, joggers, rollerbladers and walkers only emphasizes the unsuitability of this site for a facility of this size.

I join many others who use and love the river and Crescent Trail, those who know that green space is priceless and irreplaceable in this part of the District, in asking that this parcel of land remain unzoned.

Sincerely yours,

W. Robert Johnston
4621 N. 37th St.
Arlington, Va.
22207

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 75

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CASE NO.02-30
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