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D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2002 MAY 12 PM 1:06

Carol Mitten, Chair
DC Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Commission Cases 02-30 and 02-31

Dear Ms. Mitten:

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed Georgetown University boathouse. The reasons for rejecting this proposal are endless; we would single out the following:

- The encroachment on a unique resource—the undeveloped semi-wilderness upriver from Georgetown. Any development on this land would be unacceptable; the incredible grossness of the university's proposal makes it doubly so.

- The mind-boggling distortion in terms of scale. The boathouse would dominate all the buildings upstream from Washington Harbour, and unlike Washington Harbour it would not even be set back from the river (Washington Harbour, moreover, has the saving grace of being designed for public access).

- The encroachment on the Potomac River itself. Eighty-five-foot docks? Please! At present the only intrusion into the river in the whole stretch upstream from Alexandria is the modest dock at Thompson's Boat Center. Once again the proposal's arrogance is breathtaking.

- The use of the Capital Crescent Trail for access. This raises serious questions not just about safety but about basic public policy toward a dedicated right-of-way.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 95

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.95

In sum, the university's proposal smacks of a Fifth Amendment "taking" in reverse: the privatization of a resource that is now public, not merely without compensation to those deprived of the resource but actually at their cost. Summary rejection by the Zoning Commission is a no-brainer.

Sincerely,

Irene S. Sinclair

Robert S. Sinclair

Cc: Ms. Sally Strain
Mr. John Finney, ANC 3D