Ian Litmans
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Carol Mitten, Chair, DC Zoning commission
441 4th St., NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

RE: **Case No. 02-30**

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Ms. Mitten:

I am writing to you today to let you know that, having viewed the plans for the Georgetown boathouse, I strongly oppose the rezoning of the public parkland up river of the Washington Canoe Club. Since Georgetown already has a rowing program I feel that the costs and sacrifices to the residents and area are too high so that Georgetown can have a new and unsightly facility. I oppose this rezoning for several reasons.

1 I very much enjoy using public parkland as a hiker, runner, biker, backpacker and bird watcher and photographer. I believe having such a large structure, which is an understatement for this facility, will adversely affect each of these activities not only for myself, but also for the literally thousands of people that travel and use these paths every week. I believe that this negative influence will not only occur during the construction of the facility, but also will continue long after it is built.

2 The boathouse will adversely affect the view of the river & Key Bridge from the Capital Crescent Trail and the C&O Canal. It will adversely affect the view of the river from Virginia. The boathouses along the river are historic and classic looking and are a benefit to the city and country. Having such a large structure, which doesn't fit in with the surrounding structures, will ruin the view and the historical significance of that area.

5 The boathouse will certainly affect river traffic for rowers and paddlers who would have to paddle farther out in the river where motorboat traffic is, creating a safety hazard. Motorboats in that area are often leaving the Georgetown waterfront where the boat owners/drivers have been drinking. Adding people being forced to paddle farther out into the river is a recipe for disaster.

6 The boathouse will certainly affect river flow patterns and erosion patterns. I do not believe that a study has taken place to ensure that the Washington Canoe Club, which is approximately 100 years old, will be guaranteed to be undamaged by subsequent river flow issues, including flooding, erosion. How will massive construction vehicles traveling close to the Washington Canoe club affect building stability? A permanent pier and the placement of a hard structural surface upstream will cause changes in water flow and will increase erosion and sediment patterns downstream of the project.

7 While Georgetown claims that the primary purpose of this facility is to establish a modern rowing facility, I find it impossible to not believe that an equally important motive is to have a riverfront location for entertaining and development functions, which is not in the public's interest as dollars raised in this facility will not help the public or the parkland.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to oppose rezoning this land due to the numerous problems it will cause. The number of people, structures, wildlife and the land who will be irreparably affected by this project vastly outweighs the benefit to Georgetown University, its students, the people related to this project and most importantly, the general public.

Sincerely,

Ian Litmans

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-31
Exhibit 58

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-31
EXHIBIT NO.58