May 1, 2003

Carol Mitten
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St NW Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Carol Mitten:

I write to request that the DC Zoning Commission does not allow Georgetown University to construct a boathouse north of Key Bridge (Case No. 02-30).

I believe that the area requested for construction should remain as natural parkland. The wooded corridor along the Potomac River may be the District of Columbia's most precious natural area, as it provides critical habitat for many species of large animals, including deer, fox, beaver, and many species of birds not found elsewhere in DC. The land in question contains a small wetland which acts as as a filter to ensure Potomac water quality and the vegetation on the land protects the narrow river banks during times of flood. A boathouse as proposed with a large concrete footing will only increase and speed runoff into the river and augment the dangers from future flooding on downstream residents and structures, including the historic Washington Canoe Club and Potomac Boat Club.

I am not opposed to the construction of a rowing facility in another more suitable location, such as south of Key Bridge, as proposed in the master plan for the Potomac River Park in Georgetown. The current parking lots south of the bridge are an eyesore and safety concern. Development of boathouses on this site would fit much better with the historic constructions in the area, create less interference with current use of the Capital Crescent Trail and C&O, and preserve the natural areas north of Key Bridge.

Sincerely,

Andrew Soles

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-31
Exhibit 67

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-31
EXHIBIT NO.67