

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to provide comments on behalf of myself, and my many concerned constituents from whom I've heard, regarding the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Georgetown University boathouse in the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

I, and many others within my community, are convinced that a full Environmental Impact Statement, which considers alternate locations outside the National Historical Park, is called for. Our reasons for this are many, but the most salient appear to be:

- 1- The proposed GU boathouse will dramatically change the flow characteristics of the Potomac River at the location and therefore greatly increase the likelihood and frequency of flood and non-flood related localized damage to the Canal embankment.
- 2- A careful assessment of the proposed location will show it to be a substantially natural and wild resource that is used and enjoyed by many hundreds of District, Maryland, and Virginia citizens each day who's use and enjoyment of it would be greatly hindered and diminished were this proposal approved.
- 3- A careful physical assessment of the upstream land the GU swapped will show that it is unbuildable for physical and Wetlands reasons. It is a relatively long thin strip of low-lying floodplain.
- 4- A careful assessment of the plat and records for the swapped upstream site will show that it is encumbered by restrictive easements that limit travel to and from the location to such an extent that, in addition to the afore-mentioned physical and Wetlands limitations, the property is unsuitable as a boathouse location because it lacks sufficient ingress/egress provisions to meet the scale of use a collegiate boathouse would demand.
- 5- This boathouse, and the others planned for the immediate area, will not be built in a vacuum. They need to be carefully planned for and assessed in a comprehensive fashion. By any measure, this has not been done. Piecemeal assessment: 1- Does not allow for an adequate understanding of the cumulative environmental impacts of the various proposed riverfront structures, and 2- Does not permit our city to intelligently and comprehensively plan for future development of these historic public resources.

Regards,

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