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January 7, 2008

Mr. Kevin Brandt
Superintendent, C&O Canal National Historical Park
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, Md. 21742

Re: Georgetown University boathouse proposal-scoping comments (EIS)
NPS violation of FACA

Dear Mr. Brandt:

By letter dated June 12, 2006, as part of my submission on the Georgetown University boathouse EA of April, 2006, I reported that the National Park Service violated the procedural and substantive provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) in connection with its participation with the Georgetown Waterfront Commission in the development of the design, boundaries and contents of the Georgetown Waterfront Park. Because of that violation of FACA, I recommended that the Park Service put a hold on the proposed Georgetown Waterfront Park until this matter could be appropriately resolved. Obviously the Park Service did not follow my recommendation.

In a separate scoping comment on the EIS, also dated January 7, 2008, I assert that the 1987 Georgetown Waterfront Park Plan was illegally procured and promulgated thereby invalidating the Plan's implementation. The failure of the Park Service to comply with NEPA, like the instant violation of FACA, should prevent any effort by the Park Service to use the construction of Phase I of the Georgetown Waterfront Park as a reason not to consider the alternative site for Georgetown University's boathouse at 34th St.

As part of my scoping comments on the pending EIS, I hereby enclose the above-mentioned June 12, 2006 letter along with all the letters and documentation I filed in support of my claim.

The Park Service was placed on notice about the FACA violation as early as November 15, 2005. At that time I pointed out to Director Mainella that the failure of the Park Service to comply with the provisions of FACA resulted in the negation of the plan fostered by the Park Service for the Georgetown Waterfront Park. The Park Service chose to ignore my complaint. In these circumstances, I submit that this violation of FACA constitutes an additional reason for consideration and possible selection of the site just east of 34th St. and adjacent to GW's boathouse site at the far western end of the Georgetown Waterfront Park for Georgetown University's boathouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert B. Norris

Enc.

