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January 2, 2008

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

Re: Georgetown University Boathouse Proposal

Dear Mr. Brandt:

As a former two-term president of the Palisades Citizens Association and a 40-year runner on the C&O Canal, I strongly oppose allowing a private corporation, Georgetown University, build a private building, their proposed boat house, on land owned by the citizens of the United States of America. If he were alive, I assure you so would Justice William O. Douglas, the driving force behind the creation of this magnificent national treasure. It would be a desecration of his memory and those public servants who for decades fought to keep this hallowed ribbon of land and water out of the hands of private interests.

Mr. Brandt, the record in this proceeding is replete with alternatives for a multi-user public facility outside of our national park. As you consider the EIS, please do not lose sight of the bedrock issue before you: whether on your watch as the protector of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, you want to allow a private corporation to build a private facility that the citizens of our Country will be prohibited from using.

I hope not.

Kind regards,


Stuart Philip Ross

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