

Letters to the Editor  
The Washington Post  
1150 15th Street Northwest  
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Editor:

While your readers weigh the merits of the National Park Service agreement with Mr. Snyder to allow tree-cutting on public land ("Park Service Could Profit From Allowing Snyder To Clear His Land," by Tim Craig, March 5, page A-1), they should be aware of an equally serious development downstream.

The Park Service has negotiated an agreement with Georgetown University to transfer wooded land in C&O Canal National Historical Park to the university, for construction of a private boathouse and recreational facility. The existing trees will give way to a 50-foot-high building that blocks river views and 75-foot-long docks that will obstruct river traffic.

This plan serves private, not public interests, and is opposed by a dozen citizen groups and hundreds of residents. More than 100 showed up at a January public meeting, and urged the Park Service to consider alternative sites outside the park. But so far there is no word on whether the Park Service will reconsider.

The Park Service is charged with conserving the scenery, protecting natural and historic sites, and providing for their enjoyment by the public. Exclusive, private facilities belong outside the national parks.

The Georgetown University boathouse plan is eroding trust in the agency that is entrusted with our most ecologically and historically significant public lands.

Sincerely,

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