

March 1, 2012

Mr. Peter May, Associate Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

RE: NPS Feasibility Study to Implement a Non-Motorized Boathouse Zone along the Georgetown Waterfront (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=39727>)



Dear Mr. May:

Please find attached the approved position paper of the C & O Canal National Historical Park Federal Advisory Commission submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) on January 18, 2008 as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the then-proposed Georgetown University Boathouse. Commission concerns were focused on impact of the use on C & O Canal National Historical Park property and on the legislated historical and recreational mission of the Park.

Although the Commission as an official body expired in 2010 members continue to meet pending passage of legislation to re-establish. Four years later the concerns expressed in the 2008 document remain applicable as stated to any proposed construction and use of boathouses in the vicinity of the Park in Georgetown. I am asking that this position paper be included in the public record for the current NPS Feasibility Study as it progresses through its required phases.

Please contact us should you have any questions about the issues discussed in the document. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the public comment process.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Pierce

Merrily Pierce, Commissioner (2004-2010)
Commonwealth of Virginia
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Attachment

cc:

Kevin Brant, Superintendent
C & O Canal National Historical Park

Tammy Stidham
National Capital Region
National Park Service

Sally Stain, Coordinator
Defenders of Potomac River Parkland

Rachel Stewart, President
C & O Canal Association