

The Honorable Carol Schwartz

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against the proposed Georgetown Boathouse.

The two points of my concern are water quality and the swap of parkland.

Water quality is an important concern because of the sewer line that now runs the length of the site. The line is old and has been repaired many times by the WASA. Any building construction will upset the river bank and the sewer line. Neither Georgetown nor the NPS can effectively monitor the condition of the sewer line during construction. If a crack occurs or a seam opens in the sewer line during construction, the surrounding soil will be contaminated with waste and could never be removed. The contaminated soil would pollute the river bank and the river.

The second point is the swap of parkland. The District cannot control or influence the NPS partnership with Georgetown in this land swap. In the state of New Jersey, the US Senator of New Jersey stopped the NPS from privatizing Federal parkland. The NPS presented outdated plans and a defective MOA to the District. The structure shown in the outdated plans has changed. The NPS changed the MOA with Georgetown after the MOA was approved by DC zoning.

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The Mayor and Representative Norton should be made aware of this privatization of parkland in the DC and of the possible pollution of the Potomac River. The loss of parkland can never be recovered for future generations of citizens of DC. I would recommend that the Mayor and Representative Norton join the concerned citizens and request an Environmental Impact Statement, i.e., EIS, from the NPS regarding this site.

I would like to thank you for consideration and continued efforts on behalf of the citizens of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely yours,

John Goodrow