

GU Spending on Lobbying for Boathouse Reported to Top \$1.2 Million

A [report](#) dated July 30, 2009, on the blog *Vox Populi* indicated that Georgetown University paid \$20,000 between April and June to a lobbying firm working on the University's proposal to build a large boathouse on land within the C&O Canal National Historical Park. This sum brought the GU's total expenditure on lobbying efforts in connection with the project to more than \$1.2 million.

An August 1 [article](#) on a blog maintained by EcoAction, a student environmental group at GU, called on readers to reflect on the environmental and financial costs of the boathouse project.

These blog items followed a series of related articles by online media associated with the GU student body. On March 26, 2009, an [article](#) by Juliana Brint in *The Georgetown Voice* stated that disclosure forms showed that the University had spent some \$990,000 on lobbying for the project's approval since 2009. A May 15 [article](#) by Christine Roberts in *The Hoya* reported that such expenditures had reached more than \$1 million, including \$40,000 during 2009.

On April 2, *The Georgetown Voice* published an [editorial](#) entitled "Boathouse Should Not Be a Priority," and also a [Letter to the Editor](#) from Sally Strain, D.C. Coordinator, Defenders of Potomac River Parkland, and Bill Snape, Senior Counsel, The Center for Biological Diversity.