

January 30, 2012

Mr. Peter May, Associate Regional Director  
National Capital Region, National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington DC 20242

Dear Mr. May:

I hope that the Feasibility Study to Implement a Non-Motorized Boathouse Zone along Georgetown Waterfront will result in a positive outcome. It should be possible to enhance boating access without infringing upon historical and scenic assets that belong to the public as a whole. The following are my personal observations on the study as it has developed so far.

The study should be comprehensive in scope and therefore include the area from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to the Thompson Boat Center. It is important to take into account the role that the downriver area plays in existing and potential boating activities.

To avoid repeating the futility of the past EA/EIS process, the feasibility study should recognize that the C&O Canal National Historical Park is not a proper space for private development. The C&OCNHP's authority to engage in land exchanges should be used to enhance the NHP, not to create new enclaves within it.

Excellent opportunities exist for development of boating facilities downriver from the C&OCNHP. An appropriate site for construction of boathouse(s) that could be used by rowing teams exists immediately upriver from 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Although owned and administered by NPS, this area is not being used as parkland and is probably the least environmentally-sensitive part of the zone's shoreline. It could be developed for boating by NPS, or by private universities on the basis of leasing or fair purchase/land exchange transactions. There are also other publically-owned properties near the 34<sup>th</sup> Street location that are not being used as parkland and may have potential as sites for boating support facilities.

The study should recognize: that team rowing is only one of several popular boating activities in the zone; that boating of all kinds is only one category of desirable recreation practiced there; and that all recreational goals must respect scenic, environmental, and historical values.

Sincerely,

Edmund (Ned) Preston  
6306 Swords Way  
Bethesda MD 20817