



Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.

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Secretary Sullivan
EOEEA
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston MA 02114

Dear Secretary Sullivan:

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, which include non-boaters and boaters who have a love of the islands, and desire to be able to visit the islands. The recent information submitted to DCR regarding the proposed dock replacement project at George's Island. The alternative that is currently alternative (B) excludes dockage for recreational boaters due to concerns by the ferry operator (per the letter).

According to DCR's web site, the mission of DCR is "DCR Mission *To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources. In meeting today's responsibilities and planning for tomorrow, DCR's focus is on: Improving outdoor recreational opportunities and natural resource conservation, Restoring and improving our facilities, Expanding public involvement in carrying out DCR's mission, and Establishing first-rate management systems and practices.*

The health and happiness of people across Massachusetts depend on the accessibility and quality of our green infrastructure - our natural resources, recreational facilities, and great historic landscapes. The DCR continues to improve the vital connection between people and the environment." (Emphasis added)

The National Park Service's mission is: "...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (Emphasis added)

Are we to understand that the concerns of one or two for-profit ferry operators are preventing the building of dockage for thousands of tax-paying citizens that have a desire to visit and use a State Park, and National Park Area?

In neither the DCR mission nor the NPS missions do we find "to the exclusion of a particular segment of the population".

The Friends as you may know have been in existence since 1978 and were among the first organizations assisting with the Boston Harbor Islands, the first group providing on-island volunteers. The Friends have worked hard over the past 33 years to promote the park and the



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islands. At the recent New England Boat Show we spoke to thousands of boaters who travel past the islands frequently, but have no idea of what the islands are, or what is on the islands. This is an opportunity to increase visitor counts to the islands. But by virtue of the VHB letter, it seems the DCR and NPS continue to plan on excluding boater access. Please note the Friends are not just advocating boater access (beyond dropping off passengers), for Georges Island, but for all of the islands that have docks.

The Friends would encourage both the DCR and NPS to reconsider this plan, and would further advocate for options D or E. We would also advocate for options for recreational boaters to dock in the timeframe between 'now' and the planned construction of the new pier, as well as at other locations/islands.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can be reached at chairmanFBHI@gmail.com should you have any questions.

Yours,

Walter Hope,
Chairman, FBHI

Cc: DCR Nicholas Zavalas
NPS Bruce Jacobson
Constitution Marina, Tom Cox & Peter Davidoff