October 9, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) in support of preservation efforts of the Lovells Island Oil House. This small brick structure is the last remaining piece of the 1903 Lovells Island Range Light. The Oil House was part of a chain of navigational aids that guided the shipping of goods, fishermen, and immigrants to their new homes in Boston for many years.

Grant partnerships and private fundraising are essential for public agencies and non-profit organizations to afford these investments and necessary repairs of historic structures. Such funding for this project will help not only to secure and restore the Oil House but will also help to relocate the structure to higher ground on the island to protect it from the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. This work will allow visitors to enjoy this historic property for generations to come.

MWRA is the steward of two islands in the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreational Area, Deer Island in the city Boston and Nut Island in the city of Quincy. We understand the responsibilities and challenges that come with safeguarding and operating these important pieces of a National Park. Public access is a critical piece to these public assets and investing in them is critical. We have seen the value of these investments firsthand. Since the opening of our public walking paths at Deer Island and Nut Island, we have seen tremendous increases to the number of visitors that visit these islands on a daily basis. We believe that this project will produce the same results on Lovells Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this valuable and worthwhile project. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Frederick A. Laskey
Executive Director