



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL

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1ST DISTRICT COUNCILMAN

March 7, 2022

Ms. Lisa B. Humber
President
Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
240 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms. Humber:

In response to the December 1, 2021 letter from the Maritime Exchange, the Philadelphia City Councilmembers below express exception to the assumption in the letter and attached position paper that on-water recreation and commercial shipping must be mutually exclusive.

The Council supports commercial shipping and on-water recreation continuing to co-exist safely. We would be pleased to explore constructive solutions with you, similar to those implemented in New York Harbor where recreation representatives are active members of the New York Harbor Safety Committee.

We would be pleased to share community endeavors with you, such as the water programming of the Independent Seaport Museum, the therapeutic rowing of the Red Dragon Canoe Club, the youth development of groups like UrbanPromise, the family fun of small boating and the health benefits of kayaking, so you fully understand the benefits of water recreation. It seems the Maritime Exchange would support opportunities for all to enjoy their River.

We also believe your letter contains some misunderstanding about the provisions of the Clean Water Act and its role in protecting the ability of people to enjoy clean water. Environmental justice demands that cities, like Philadelphia, along the 27-mile urban section of the 330-mile Delaware River have equal access to the same water quality as the rest of the Delaware River.

Sincerely,

Mark Squilla, Cindy Bass, Kendra Brooks, Allan Domb, Jamie Gauthier, Katherine Gilmore Richardson, Derek Green, Helen Gym, Brian O'Neill, Cherelle Parker and Isaiah Thomas

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