



29 April 2008

Mr. Todd Callaghan
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Callaghan:

The Boston Harbor Association (TBHA), a non-profit, public interest organization founded in 1973 by the League of Women Voters and the Boston Shipping Association to promote a clean, alive, and accessible Boston Harbor, writes to strongly support the petition by Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the City of Boston for a "No Discharge Zone" in Boston Harbor. If approved, we understand that Boston would become the largest city and working port on the East Coast to receive such designation. The Boston Harbor Association was the first public interest organization to call for and to promote the clean up of Boston Harbor, and we believe that the "No Discharge Zone" designation will greatly complement the efforts of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission for a cleaner Boston Harbor.

The improvements to Boston Harbor during the past decade are striking, including water quality at Boston Harbor beaches safe enough for swimming more than 90% of the time and the re-opening of shellfish beds in Winthrop and other communities. Elimination of all boat discharges will ensure that these important resources are protected, and will promote public health in our coastal communities.

As part of The Boston Harbor Association's continuing effort to foster a clean Boston Harbor, we are committed to the following measures in support of Mayor Menino and the City of Boston's efforts:

1. Preparation of a "Boaters' Guide to a Cleaner Boston Harbor" which lists all recreational pumpout facilities in Boston,

Cambridge, Hingham, Quincy, and Weymouth and best management practices for boaters, including ways to minimize petroleum spills while fueling, managing the bilge, and boat maintenance with minimal environmental impacts.

2. Distribution of more than 3,500 copies of TBHA's "Boaters' Guide to a Cleaner Boston Harbor" to all marinas and yacht clubs in Boston Harbor in an effort to encourage pumpout usage and best management practices. We will also offer to address members of each marina and yacht club if they would like a speaker.

3. Continued advocacy for more commercial pumpout facilities and pumpout boats. For example, in 2006, TBHA advocated for a new commercial pumpout facilities as part of the Sterling Marine project. We understand that the Massachusetts Port Authority has also raised the issue of having a sufficient number of pumpout facilities for commercial vessels, and the importance of ongoing maintenance of existing facilities, and we concur with their desire for sufficient facilities.

4. Continued public education through TBHA's web site and newsletter. Enclosed is one of TBHA's 2007 newsletters highlighting on the front page the proposed "No Discharge Zone" designation. Our next newsletter will focus on the importance of the "No Discharge Zone" designation and what each individual and boater can do to make a difference.

We look forward to approval of the "No Discharge Zone" designation for Boston Harbor in time for the 2008 boating season . Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vivien Li
Executive Director
The Boston Harbor Association