



**DIRIGO
MANAGEMENT
COMPANY**

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Chandlers Wharf Owners Association writes to express strong support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

Chandlers Wharf Owners Association is a 90 unit residential condominium association with 76 marina boat slips located on a wharf in the middle of Portland harbor on the Fore Ricer. Chandlers Wharf owners benefit from being able to live on the wharf and step foot off of the wharf to their boat. Access to and from the slips effects the marketability of the residential units and slips which is why Chandlers Wharf Owners Association is supportive of this project. As waterfront owners, Chandlers Wharf Owners Association supports the efforts of their working waterfront neighbors. The fishing boats, tour boats, and seagulls are what bring buyers to Chandlers Wharf.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, even Chandler's Wharf is experiencing encroachment on our marina slips. For us to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance might not be feasible. As a result, some of our berthing space is barely accessible during low tide. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that we will lose some of the marina slips.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to make the necessary improvements to our effected slips. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will increase the value of the slips and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private owners, are all supportive of the work



ONE CITY CENTER, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101-6409

19 MAIN ST, STE 104, KENNEBUNK, ME 04043-7906

TEL: (207) 871-1080 • FAX (207) 871-7189

E-MAIL: info@dirigomgmt.com • WEB SITE: www.dirigomgmt.com

and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last portion of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

We are pleased to be able to join with other waterfront owners to be part of this dredging project.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Atkins".

Gail Atkins, CMCA, AMS
Senior Property Manager