

May 31, 2018

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

NY Waterway's plan to place a bustling industrial facility right in the middle of two very active, well-used parks – Maxwell Place Park (including Hoboken Cove) and Castle Point Park - is an accident waiting to happen.

Many community organizations, including the Hoboken Cove Community Boathouse, use the beach and cove at this park for weekly kayaking and paddle board lessons, putting thousands of people in the water there each year; the City of Water Day Festival, hosted annually by the Waterfront Alliance, brings hundreds of visitors from all over the NYC area to the Hoboken Waterfront, introducing them to the water via boating, kayak and paddleboard excursions. NY Waterway's proposal places all of these people in danger from ferry traffic. In fact, last summer a NY Waterway ferry collided with a group of 10 kayakers on the New York side of the river, injuring five of them (see attached NY Times story). According to the City of Hoboken, it's estimated that ferries will make *80-136 trips a day* to and from the site. That's a huge increase from the traffic in and out of Union Dry Dock's former barge repair facility, where boat traffic was minimal.

In addition, air pollution from the highly polluting diesel-engined boats endangers the long-term health of the thousands of children and adults - residents commuters and tourists – who enjoy the beach, toddler park (!), waterfront walkway and skateboard park that directly border the proposed site.

While I support the increased use of ferries and other forms of public transport, I believe that NY Waterway has other, more suitable options available to them for such a facility. Indeed, because of an OPRA request filed by the organization I work for, the Fund for a Better Waterfront, NJ Transit was forced to release its 2009 study that found five sites more appropriate for a ferry maintenance facility than Union Dry Dock.

Throughout this process, both NY Waterway and NJ Transit have acted without transparency: NY Waterway purchased the Union Dry Dock property and made a deal with NJ Transit without

the knowledge of Hoboken's elected officials or its residents. There have been no traffic or environmental impact studies, and no public hearings.

Our community has fought for years to reclaim the waterfront from the industries that long ago abandoned it, and today the political and public support to complete the transformation into a public park is stronger than ever. I hope you will work with our City and other stakeholders to sit down and find a better site for NY Waterway's ferry depot.

Sincerely,

Heather Gibbons
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