



REVISED

January 13, 2013

Commissioner Bob Martin
Department of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street
7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Dear Commissioner Martin,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and discuss marine trades and the challenges facing the recreational boating industry. I appreciate your willingness to look into our concerns and the issues discussed.

The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) is the state's recreational boating trade association which represents hundreds of marine businesses. Boating is a significant part of New Jersey's economy. The economic impact of boating supports approximately 18,000 jobs and \$2 billion dollars in spending. Marinas are an essential part of New Jersey's waterfront communities. They provide access to a variety of recreational activities, important boating infrastructure and services that allow people seeking recreation on the water to safely begin and end their excursions. Marina operators and owners realize that the success of their industry relies in part on the health and beauty of their surroundings. They work hard to preserve and protect our natural resources while struggling to run their businesses effectively and profitably while facing burdensome and costly regulations.

Hurricane Sandy devastated our industry and severely impacted marinas, boat yards, recreational fishing and boating businesses, and destroyed countless boats. Many marinas were completely destroyed and will need to rebuild their facilities.

In order to rebuild in time for the upcoming boating season, marinas need to begin the process immediately. The Department's response to the storm and the guidance that has been provided thus far has been extremely helpful. However, there are many facilities that will need to obtain new CAFRA and Waterfront Development permits which will trigger many additional requirements and conditions that will make the process extremely difficult.

The MTA/NJ worked closely with the department during the recent stakeholder process for the proposed amendments to the Coastal Permit Program Rules and the Coastal Zone Management Rules. As water dependent businesses, marinas are significantly impacted by these

rules. Therefore, we strongly support the immediate implementation of the recent amendments to the Coastal Zone Management rules. These changes will ease the ability and streamline the process for marinas impacted by Hurricane Sandy to rebuild and repair without facing additional burdens and challenges and ensure the future health and recovery of the recreational boating industry.

There has never been a more important time for the Department to amend these rules. Prior to the storm, the boating industry was already facing increasing demand for water access, loss of marinas and marine businesses and a slow economic recovery. If immediate action to support these water dependent businesses is not taken now, they will likely be forced out of business or will sell their properties to private developers. New Jersey needs more marinas to provide opportunities to access and enjoy our waterways, not less.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. If you need additional information or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 732-292-1051.

Sincerely,



Melissa Danko
Executive Director

C. Governor Chris Christie
Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno
Marc Ferzan, Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding
Ray Cantor, Chief Advisor, NJDEP