

Portland Yacht Services and Portland Ship Yard

100 West Commercial Street
Portland, Maine 04102

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

April 18, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project is about the State and Federal government taking care of the economic engine for the State of Maine. The crazy thing about this pleading is that we don't own these submerged lands. They belong to the State. The City, State, and Federal Government derive their income and fund social programs from taxes on our profits, payroll, and property values. This project is an investment in future revenues. Every cubic yard of dredge material removed to keep the harbor viable belongs to the State of Maine.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts are threatened. There is no commitment to an economically viable waterfront. The commercial fishing industry has no long-term plan because the wharf owner's expenses are skyrocketing. Without berthing, there is a catch-22 that is spiraling the waterfront away from multimodal commercial uses. This waisting is NOT through lack of trying on our part. There will be no next generation of commercial wharfingers. Most of my friends have left the waterfront, and I will not allow my children to work in my business. My time is limited.

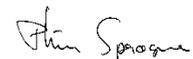
The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for many years. Once the project is underway, we will expand our shipyard by utilizing the dredged areas for a new travelift basin and wetdocking of larger vessels, as the offshore wind projects require more support facilities. The improvements will increase City, State, and Federal revenues and provide jobs. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, there will be no commercial vessels from the Portland area for us to work on.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and the private business owners all support the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last funding has been allocated and only needs the federal match for this critical project to occur.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, small businesses can't continue without an economically vibrant infrastructure to build upon. Therefore, I respectfully request that you commit to the working waterfront and the next generations so the children can continue the legacy.

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

Sincerely,



Phineas Sprague, Jr.
President