

Maurine Karagianis, M.L.A.
(Esquimalt – Royal Roads)
Room 201, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
P: (250) 387 3655
F: (250) 387 4680

Community Office
A5, 100 Aldersmith Place
Victoria, B.C. V9A 7M8
P: (250) 479 8326
E: maurine.karagianis.mla@leg.bc.ca



Maurine Karagianis, M.L.A.
(Esquimalt-Royal Roads)

March 25, 2010

John Baird, Minister of Transport,
Infrastructure and Communities
Tower C, 330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Baird,

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2010 regarding the proposed Victoria International Marina Project. I appreciate the information you provided about the independent review panel referral process.

In your letter, you suggest that the most common views raised by the public are unrelated to environmental effects. I have heard from hundreds of constituents over the last year regarding the project and I can assure you that concerns about the environmental impacts are front and centre.

The effects of dredging thousands of truck loads of sediment from the harbour are of principal concern. A portion of the proposed harbour site has been deemed to be of “high ecological value” by the *Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating Project*, an intergovernmental project to protect and improve the environmental quality of the harbours in Victoria’s Capital Regional District. Over and over again constituents have voiced concerns about the environmental repercussions a Marina would have on this fragile ecosystem.

/...next page

Page 2

Many people in the community, including myself, are also worried about the effects the Marina Project will have on the network of rivers and streams of the Gorge Waterway. It has taken years of dedication to clean up this long-polluted waterway, and there is widespread trepidation that the Marina Project will be detrimental to those efforts and the continued viability of this precious ecosystem.

Finally, I am concerned about your estimation that a panel review process is unwarranted. It is my understanding, and the community's understanding, that neither Transport Canada nor Fisheries and Oceans Canada have come to a conclusion about the environmental impact the Marina will have. It is troubling that a panel review would be ruled out even before the completion of the environmental assessment.

The community feels that their concerns are not being adequately addressed by government as there has been no meaningful consultation initiated by the Federal or Provincial governments. The public forum that took place on September 22, 2009 was held and organized by local Member of Parliament Denise Savoie and should not be seen as a replacement for a forum organized by government officials.

Once again, thank you for your letter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Maurine Karagianis, MLA
Esquimalt-Royal Roads

cc Denise Savoie, MP Victoria
 The Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment
 The Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range
 Carole James, MLA Victoria – Beacon Hill
 Rob Fleming, MLA Victoria – Swan Lake
 Mayor and Council City of Victoria
 Victoria West Community Association
 Save Victoria Harbour
 South Island Sea Kayaking Association