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June 24, 1992

The Honorable Bob Traxler
Chairman, VA, HUD and
Independent Agencies
H-143, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I would like to thank you for tremendous support that you have provided for the Boston Harbor Project. As you know the costs of this federally-mandated undertaking are enormous.

To date and with your leadership, the Boston Harbor Project has received \$179 million in federal grants. I am very grateful for this help, and for the tardy but welcome support of the Administration. But the level of assistance is inadequate when compared to the project's costs and the history of federal grants for such activities in other states. The \$179 million provided for Boston Harbor amounts to less than 5% of this project's costs. This is just not fair. And it will create an intolerable rate burden on local families.

The urgency of this situation intensifies with every rate increase. I believe that a significant boost in the federal contribution will help ease the pain and frustration felt by Boston area ratepayers, as they see good faith effort to shoulder the ever-growing financial burdens.

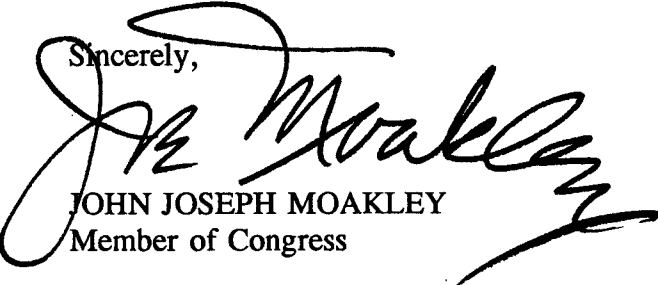
I recognize that this is a particularly difficult budget year, and that you must deal with a broad range of worthy competing goals within your Subcommittee. But, in light of the great need here, I am requesting that you increase funding for Boston Harbor from \$100 million to \$200 million which is double what the Administration proposed for Fiscal Year 1993. If Congress provides \$200 million for the each of the next five years, the federal share of this project's cost would still be only 20 percent, far below the 55 and 75 percent federal shares that many metropolitan areas have enjoyed in the past.

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Mr. Chairman, your support in the past has shown that we share a deep commitment to restoring Boston Harbor for the sake of the environment, public health, recreation and the economic benefits of as clean and safe harbor. I also know that you recognize the wisdom and urgency of investing now in critical infrastructure improvements that will cost us much more in the long run if they are delayed. And we share a commitment to relieving extraordinary and unfair economic burdens on American families. Therefore, I hope that you will look favorably on my proposal to double the annual appropriation for the Boston Harbor project because it is such a compelling reflection of these basic values that we share.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress