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4th Suffolk District
State House, Boston

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARBOR ISLANDS CONFERENCE

As Chairman of the Special Legislative Commission on the Boston Harbor Islands, it is my privilege to announce that our Commission is sponsoring a two-day Conference dealing with the future of the islands, waters and shoreline of Boston Harbor, to be held at the State House, June 24 and 25.

The purposes of this Conference are:

1. To inform government and industry leadership of the environmental resources of Boston Harbor;
2. To identify technological capabilities and constraints applicable to future Harbor uses;
3. To initiate a systematic measurement of costs and benefits of alternative Harbor uses;
4. To stimulate informed discussion concerning the roles of government and industry in the utilization of the Harbor resources; and
5. To frame logical next steps in the determination of the Harbor's future uses.

There is an underlying assumption that has made this Conference mandatory. That is that there is relatively little known about the Harbor and its potential. The Harbor and its islands presently perform several interrelated functions of regional importance. It is a waste receptacle, a transportation center, recreational and conservation preserve and a body

of water with important ecological functions. Before the Legislature can make an informed judgment as to its future functions, more information is required. This area is a unique natural resource and accordingly requires innovative, systematic approaches to planning. The Conference provides such an approach.

I have invited qualified representatives of industry, academic institutions, and all levels of government to initiate a cross-fertilization of ideas. Their objective will not be to debate the desirability of any particular use, but to generate new information, to identify relevant capabilities and constraints, and to assess the practical costs and benefits of any approach taken. Although there may not yet exist a consensus as to future Harbor uses, the Boston Harbor Islands Commission has undertaken through this Conference and subsequent hearings and studies to make certain that any future lack of consensus is not attributable to lack of information. As a by-product, I would hope that this Conference would focus public attention upon the islands and generate community support for the steps necessary to satisfy further basic information needs.

The content of the Conference is as follows: There will be five major addresses beginning with the keynote address by Senator Kennedy on the theme of the Conference, "Government-Industry Partnership." After a presentation by the Boston Harbor Study Group of M.I.T. of its report to the Commission, THE HARBOR ISLANDS, there will be an address on "The Impact of Urbanization on Environmental Resources of Boston Harbor" by Mr. Charles Carothers, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior. The topic of the supper address on the first day will be

"Metropolitan Framework for the Determination of the Harbor's Future," to be given by Mr. Arthur Davis, Director of the Community Resources Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. George Parsons, Manager of the Urban Systems Division of TRW, Inc., of California, will address the Conference on the morning of the second day on "Market Formation in the Utilization of the Harbor's Resources." The second day luncheon address on "Application of the Planning Process" will be given by Mr. Gabor Strasser, Vice President for planning of the newly established Urban Institute in Washington.

Five workshops will be held concurrently on each day, or ten workshops in all. On the first day, the topic for workshop discussion will focus upon the physical capabilities and constraints of the area as they effect the harbor's various interrelated functions. These include, in order, pollution, transportation, recreation, ecology and oceanology, and community development. Second day workshops are addressed to the role certain organizations will have to play in cooperation with one another if the Harbor is to respond comprehensively to community needs. That is, the role of private industries, financial institutions, the federal government and the Commonwealth. Because of its central importance, two workshops will explore the role of the Commonwealth.

An extremely capable group of individuals have accepted my invitation to serve as workshop chairmen and discussion leaders, and I am pleased to refer you to their names in the materials distributed to you.

I also want to take this opportunity to express again my appreciation to the many individuals and groups in the community who have assisted in making this the productive conference that it is certain to be. Formal

acknowledgment with a list of these organizations will be included in the materials to be distributed at the Conference.

Previously, I had mentioned that this Conference provides an innovative approach to planning. It represents possibly the earliest stage in the planning process that business and government have been brought together to frame a comprehensive, community-wide approach to the utilization of a major environmental resource. Moreover, it is especially timely to note that it represents a cooperative attempt by the public and private sectors to meet compelling domestic needs. I think it is important that in a period when government's credibility is waning and industry and universities have been criticized for their emphasis upon the instrumentalities of war; that these very segments of national life are demonstrative through this conference their willingness to utilize their capabilities and interest for human and social benefit. This is what the youth of today rightly demands of the nation's leadership and this is what this Conference is designed in part to accomplish.

It was my personal belief, which has become reinforced during my two and one-half years as Commission Chairman, that only an objective and deliberative evaluation of all of the alternatives will produce orderly and intelligent utilization of this neglected region. There is only one constant in this decision-making equation which I, as a legislator, must insist upon. I want whatever Harbor use or combination of uses is decided upon to benefit the maximum number of people within the Commonwealth, to benefit the Community as a whole rather than any one or special part of it. I want the satisfaction of their needs to be the one element that will not be compromised. Their needs will not be compromised if I and all of my

colleagues in the legislature are able to make an informed judgment.

As Chairman of the Boston Harbor Islands Commission, I am not committed to any one use of this resource. The time for a decision is still in the future, and it will come only when I and the other members of the Commission are satisfied that we have all of the information that can reasonably be made available upon which to base a decision.

I look forward to having each of you participate in this conference. If the community is to make an objective appraisal, it will depend upon you as representatives of the news media for the thoughtful, thorough coverage that this conference so clearly deserves.

I would like to conclude by expressing my appreciation for your attendance here today.

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