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A Neutral Container Line

April 17, 1996

Dear Congressman Moakley

I am writing to strongly urge you to request funding for the federal share of the Boston Harbor Navigation Improvement Project through the House Energy and Water Appropriations bill. This funding should be part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fiscal year 1997 budget appropriations.

As part of the Seaport Bond Bill the Commonwealth has committed to the dredging of Boston Harbor to accommodate the current and future fleet of international cargo ships. New England businesses depend on this commitment. Dredging is a key component of the Port of Boston and the economic vitality of the region.

Dredging projects elsewhere in the U.S. have endured lengthy delays, due to debates and disputes over environmental issues. The Boston Harbor Project included environmental activists and regulators at the beginning of the environmental review process, as a result, the project enjoys the enthusiastic support of the environmental community. Ports, regulations and environmentalists around the U.S. are closely following the progress of this project.

The Massachusetts Legislature has approved and the Governor has signed into law The Seaport Bond Bill to provide a large share of the non-federal funds necessary for this project. Massport will provide the rest. The project should not be delayed because federal funds are not appropriated.

Thank you for all efforts on behalf of this critically needed funding

Respectfully

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Robert Lewis