

To: Whom It May Concern



BOOTHBAY HARBOR REGION  
— CHAMBER OF COMMERCE —

From: Lisa Walby, BHRCC

Date: April 4, 2022

RE: Letter of Support for the Maine State Aquarium's renovation project

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For over 60 years, the Boothbay Harbor Region Chamber of Commerce has been a voluntary organization whose membership comprises several hundred business entities and Friends of the Chamber in the communities of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, East Boothbay, Edgecomb, Monhegan, Newcastle, Southport, Westport, Woolwich and Wiscasset. The mission of the Boothbay Harbor Region Chamber of Commerce is to promote a positive business climate by focusing on advocacy, access and leadership. The chamber's primary goals are to: 1) bolster local businesses and the communities we serve; 2) serve as guardian of the community's economic well-being; 3) advocate on the behalf of the business community; and 4) promote avenues of tourism.

The Maine State Aquarium has been an important tourism attraction in the Boothbay Harbor region for nearly 30 years. Before the pandemic, the Aquarium would draw upwards of 35,000 visitors from June to September. These visitors are from in state and out of state; for example, many Mainers bring guests and extended family to the Boothbay Harbor region for the aquarium, also frequenting local shops and eateries. This brings much needed revenue to the region, which is especially important as the tourism trade recovers economically after the pandemic. The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) in general, and the Maine State Aquarium particularly, provide important permanent and seasonal jobs in the community, including those who relocate to Maine specifically for positions within DMR.

I support the Maine State Aquarium's plan to renovate and redesign its space and exhibits. A state-of-the-art Aquarium will be a tremendous economic and educational opportunity that would hopefully draw even more visitors to this region. It could also draw more people looking to move to Maine for employment, as well as employ local Mainers employed through local construction companies renovating the Aquarium space.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require more information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Walby".

Lisa Walby

Executive Director