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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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Superfund Remediation Center

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New Bedford

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Committees:  
Transportation  
Natural Resources and Agriculture  
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April 26, 1996

Honorable Barney Frank  
United States House of Representatives  
2210 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman ~~Barney~~ Frank:

I am writing with regard to the current consideration by the Environmental Protection Agency of a proposed Record of Decision (ROD) for the next phase of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Cleanup.

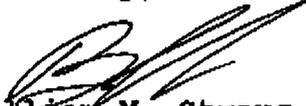
The citizens forum, which has been meeting for over two years, has voted to seek the linkage of the navigational dredging project for the New Bedford harbor with the superfund cleanup in the areas contemplated by the EPA. This would be done as part of an "enhanced remedy" sought by the community, as well as the state Department of Environmental Protection. A number of efficiencies in the permitting process as well as the planning process and possibly financial costs could be realized by a combined effort to complete the next phase of the cleanup and complete the necessary navigational dredging, which would help restore the harbor as a more viable economic component for the region.

It is my understanding that the EPA Region I office in Boston has endorsed this concept as well, and the matter is now pending within the central office in Washington, D.C. We need your help to convince the main office of the EPA that such linkage is in the best interest of the community and the goal of advancing the cleanup. Any help you can provide in having the EPA move quickly on review of the Region I request, would be greatly appreciated by all involved.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



William M. Straus  
State Representative

cc: United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senator John Kerry  
State Senator Mark Montigny  
City of New Bedford Mayor Rosemary Tierney  
City Council President George Rogers  
Fairhaven Board of Selectmen Chairman John Roderiques  
Michael Keating, Esquire, Mediator