



**Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts
Office of the Selectmen**

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Superfund Records Center
SRRP New Bedford
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September 7, 2010

Mr. David Dickerson
New Bedford Harbor Superfund Project
USEPA, OSRR07-4
5 Post Office Square – Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109 - 3912

Dear Mr. Dickerson,

I am writing to express the Town of Fairhaven's full support of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Operable Unit 1 – Lower Harbor Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Cell - Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD).

The Town and City of New Bedford with the assistance of the State's Seaport Council have been very active in navigational dredging of the lower harbor. The Town has assisted numerous Fairhaven businesses with the dredging of their properties. Those businesses have informed us that that the dredging of their facilities has made a world of difference to their businesses, allowing them to expand their operations as well as remove contaminated sediments from contact with the Harbor water, and they are very pleased with the positive outcome to not only their businesses but also to the Harbor environment.

The Town is also very concerned about the pace of the cleanup remedy and the environmental impact of allowing the PCB and metals contaminated sediments to remain on the Harbor bottom in direct contact with the ecosystem for as long as the EPA currently estimates. We are all aware of the real danger to the environment, and by extension to the food chain, that contaminated sediments represent. Every additional day that contaminated sediments remain in direct contact with the environment, the ecosystem suffers, and the effect spreads farther out into the food chain, providing a human health risk. As such, the Town believes that every effort to speed the cleanup must be made, to lessen the ecosystem and human health risks.

The Town is very appreciative of the efforts that the EPA has undertaken, and continues to undertake, in cleaning up the worst contaminated areas of the Harbor. However, the EPA estimate of approximately 46 years, at the current rate of cleanup is unacceptable, especially since the EPA has been working on the cleanup for nearly 30-years. The Town is pleased that



the EPA is considering other options that will help expedite the cleanup of the Harbor, and we are fully support the EPA's ESD to use CAD Cells in the Harbor to speed up the remedy.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the Town's full support for the EPA's ESD to use CAD Cells in the Lower Harbor. The plan represents a safe and effective approach; we are currently using with lower harbor sediments, to expediting the cleanup and knocking years off of the cleanup process. The contamination in the Harbor has long had a negative impact on the health and well being of the entire area, and the citizens of Fairhaven and New Bedford look forward to the day when the Harbor cleanup is complete and the Harbor can return to its full function.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Murphy, Sr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Charles K. Murphy, Sr.
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

cc: File