

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COALITION



10 February 2011

Co-Chairman Gary D. LeBeau
Co-Chairman Jeffrey J. Berger
State of Connecticut
Commerce Committee
Room 110, Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Co-Chairman Lebeau & Co-Chairman Berger,

We have been made aware of Raised Bill No. 6317, An Act Appropriating Funds for the Connecticut Cruise Ship Task Force. We can offer you a better solution to bringing cruise ships back to Connecticut's ports without spending a dime of tax payer's money.

We would like to sit down with you to discuss CMC's involvement to bring cruise ships to CT. You may not be aware that we initiated the cruise ship project. Unfortunately Connecticut did not receive the full benefits of our efforts when the project was handed off to Tourism.

In 2003, the Connecticut Maritime Coalition, Inc. (CMC) utilized its resources and industry connections to convince the international cruise ship industry to bring their ships and passengers to New London. CMC did this through numerous high level presentations and meetings with cruise ship executives in Florida and Seattle, Washington, participation in international cruise ship conferences, and hosting cruise ship executives to Connecticut. Subsequently, Governor Rowland chose to invest Connecticut's resources with the Cruise Ship Task Force.

The CMC, which is Connecticut's designated maritime industry cluster, stands ready to market and facilitate international cruise ships to New London, without costs to the state.

We do not feel that Connecticut should spend one more dollar of its already overtaxed budget on a task that can be funded and accomplished by the CMC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Pohorylo".

David E. Pohorylo
Chairman

Cc:

Governor Dannel Malloy
Commissioner, CT DECD