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Dr. Keith Martin, M.D., P.C., M.P.

M.P. for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca

April 9, 2009
Victoria, BC

Hon. John Baird
Minister Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

URGENT

Dear Minister Baird,

This concerns the proposal to build a large private mega yacht marina on the north shore of Victoria's inner harbour.

The following are some of the profound concerns that I have regarding this proposal.

1. First and foremost is the issue of harbour safety. Victoria Harbour is Canada's only designated marine airport, which had 34,000 landings and takeoffs in 2008. The harbour at present works reasonably well, but I maintain that at present there are significant risk factors for collisions between air and watercraft. Against this backdrop of a congested harbour the marina will be a recipe for disaster. Large vessels moving in and out of the harbour, and the increase of traffic associated with these vessels will make the risk of a fatal collision a near certainty. This must not be allowed to happen.
2. The wave attenuator proposed for the marina will actually generate higher waves and chaotic sea conditions as the winds increase in speed, making navigation in the harbour even more difficult and unsafe.
3. There are significant environmental concerns on the impact to marine habitat and reports appear to be lacking with respect to a proper environmental assessment on this project.
4. The public consultation process has been inadequate and residents and user groups are deeply concerned, but they have been excluded from having any input into this project.

The benefits to the community appear to be modest but the impact on what is truly one of the loveliest and most functional harbours in Canada will be negative and profound.

I am requesting Minister that you do not give your authorization to allow this marina to be built until all of the concerns that I mentioned have been fully addressed. Your decision could mean a matter of life or death for individuals who use this harbour.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Martin".

Dr. Keith Martin, M.D., P.C., M.P.
Esquimalt – Juan de Fuca

Cc: Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Tourism, Province of BC
Hon. Ron Cantelon, Minister of Agriculture and Lands

