



CITY OF NORWICH
Harbor Management Commission
100 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360

H. Tucker Braddock, Chairman

December 2, 2019

Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Senator Carlo Leone
Co-Chair
Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3500
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Roland Lemar
Co-Chair
Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 2103
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Subject: Connecticut Port Authority

Dear Governor Lamont, Senator Leone, and Representative Lemar:

On behalf of the Norwich Harbor Management Commission (Commission), I am writing to transmit comments from the Commission concerning Norwich Harbor, the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA), and the CPA's Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP). We trust our comments will be considered during your ongoing review of the CPA and your December 4, 2019 public meeting to discuss the CPA's operation and future.

Norwich Harbor at the head of the Thames River is the cornerstone of our city—one of the oldest and most historic communities in southeastern Connecticut. Much of the historical growth and development of Norwich has been directly tied to its location on the harbor. As the city moves forward in 2019, the substantial harbor-related opportunities for economic growth and community development are evident, as are the many opportunities for enhanced public use and enjoyment of the harbor and waterfront. We know that achieving those opportunities, while protecting

environmental resources and preserving the city's traditional quality of life, will require continued public support as well as active involvement, long-term commitment, and thoughtful planning on the part of not only our own city agencies, but also our state and federal partners from whom we need assistance from time to time.

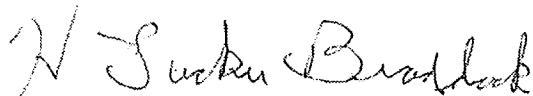
The Commission supported establishment of the CPA in 2016 with the understanding that the CPA would be a valued partner as we pursue implementation of the Norwich Harbor Management Plan and our Waterfront Vision for beneficial use and conservation of the Norwich Harbor and waterfront. We participated in the Port Authority Working Group discussions at that time and argued, along with other municipal harbor management commissions, that the CPA should provide funding assistance for harbor improvement projects in not only Connecticut's major ports but in the small and mid-size harbors such as Norwich Harbor as well.

When the CPA started its SHIPP grant program we were enthused and appreciative. In fact, the Commission is currently completing an update of the Harbor Management Plan with assistance from the first round of SHIPP grants. Early in 2019 we submitted an application for a second SHIPP grant which would help support replacement of the deteriorated city dock at Brown Park on the Downtown Norwich waterfront. The City Council committed a significant city cost-share to this project and the Commission funded the environmental permitting necessary prior to submittal of the grant application. Action on our application and on all other SHIPP applications was subsequently suspended pending resolution of the current issues and concerns now being addressed by the Governor's Office and the Transportation Committee.

We now ask for timely resolution of those issues and concerns and join with the state's other harbor management commissions in urging you to support continuation of the state programs, now administered by the CPA, providing much needed support to all of Connecticut's ports and harbors. In addition, we continue to look forward to working with the CPA and any other involved agencies pursuing water-dependent economic development opportunities and environmental initiatives in the entire Thames River region.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (860) 912-1336 or htuckerbraddock@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



H. Tucker Braddock, Chairman

cc:

Hon. Peter Nystrom, Mayor of Norwich
Rep. Doug Dubitsky, 47th District
Sen. Cathy Osten, 19th District
Rep. Emmett Riley, 46th District
Rep. Kevin Ryan, 139th District
Mr. David Kooris, Acting Chair, CPA
Mr. John L. Salomone, City Manager