

JOHN KERRY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

April 24, 2012

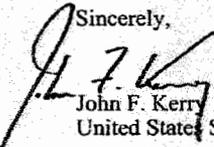
New York, New York 10011

Dear

I am enclosing the letter and information I recently received in response to my inquiry on your behalf.

Please feel free to contact my office again if you believe that I or my staff might be of further service with this or any other situation.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

John F. Kerry
United States Senator

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

470 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW
Room 7110
Washington, DC 20024-2135
Staff Symbol: CG-0921
Phone: (202) 245-0520
Fax: (202) 245-0529

5730
C938845

The Honorable John Kerry
United States Senate
One Bowdoin Square
Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114

APR 16 2012

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter dated February 8, 2012 regarding communications received from concerning the proposal to replace U. S. Coast Guard Station Menemsha's boathouse, which was destroyed by fire in July 2010.

As a result of our interactions with the Town of Chilmark, we gained an appreciation of the community's concerns regarding the possible effects of the new boathouse on Menemsha's historic waterfront and, in good faith, have made every reasonable effort to re-evaluate the Coast Guard's needs, reduce the overall size of the proposed structure and staying true to the historic attributes of the old boathouse and community.

Regarding the building's visual impact on the historic Menemsha waterfront, in comparison with our first proposal, the current design is substantially reduced in size and we have retained the architectural style of the original boathouse. The physical dimensions of the original (c. 1940) boathouse were 63 feet long, 47 feet wide, and 28 feet-1 inch tall. Based on the approved project planning documents, the first design proposal dimensions were 78 feet long, 47 feet wide and 34 feet-10 inch tall. Using feedback from the town meeting held at Chilmark, the first design dimensions were reduced to 71 feet-6 inch long, 46 feet wide, and 30 feet-11 inch tall. The size reductions were accomplished through a combination of compromising the Coast Guard's programmatic requirements, reducing the roof slope, and lowering the building's height using a more expensive second floor structural system. The Coast Guard's new Response Boats stand nearly 14 feet high on their trailers and, therefore, require a structure taller than the original boat bay to perform regular maintenance and ensure mission readiness. Reducing the building size any more will significantly compromise the operational requirements of law enforcement and life-saving missions. Please note that the Coast Guard recently received concurrence from the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office regarding our finding of no adverse effect on any historic properties.

Given the Town's restriction of building height, we are making "further reduction in building height" one of the best-value criteria for selecting the project's design-build contractor, which has the potential of bringing the height of the structure closer to that of the original boathouse. However, a requirement to conform to the Town's height limit of 18 feet would seriously jeopardize the Station's operational capability to carry out its maritime missions. At this time,

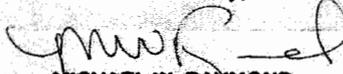
5730
C938845

Subj: RESPONSE TO LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2012, ON BEHALF OF
CONSTITUENT MS. JENNIFER SOROS

we are on schedule to award a design-build contract in July of this year to replace Menemsha's boathouse with an attractive, historically adaptive, energy efficient, and fire resistant structure to serve both the local community and Coast Guard missions for the next 75 years.

My Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 would be pleased to respond to any further questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL W. RAYMOND
COMMANDER, U.S. COAST GUARD
CONGRESSIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS STAFF
BY DIRECTION