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To Whom it may concern,

**RE: Re-Development of Chatham Docks**

We write this letter in support of ACDCO and the campaign against any re-development changes to Chatham Docks. As a small, family run contracting business it is vital for us to maintain well-earned customers and provide an outstanding service. We have been able to secure and maintain many customers who operate from Chatham Docks and have held these connections since March 2018. Since procuring these links within the Dock we have grossed over £24,400.00 and expect to continue working here for the foreseeable future. If the proposed changes move forward there will be a drastic loss of earnings to us and may result in further job loss. The gross earned from Chatham Docks is the equivalent to a yearly wage for clerical staff within our company.

The notion of Chatham Docks being destroyed and commercialised into a residential area saddens us deeply. This Dock is iconic within the recycling industry and well known throughout the UK. Having strong footholds within this industry we know that should PDMR seize trading due to this change the whole sector would feel it's loss. This would affect UK based companies such as ourselves as well as international companies including machinery manufactures and global import/export agreements. This would then effect trade with the UK and with Brexit already applying pressure this is something not needed from our own councils.

As well as all of the above, personally for us Chatham Docks allows us to work locally. The benefits of this for our company are:

- Costings – Working 'close to home' allows us to manage our costs a lot better. Finding local work is difficult and in order to continue trading we are required to offer Nationwide coverage. If Chatham Docks is re-developed into an area where a mechanical engineering and CODED welding company is no longer needed we would be forced to take on work further afield which would have a detrimental effect to our profits.
- Work/Life Balance – For us it is important to ensure our engineers have a suitable and happy work/life balance. If we are forced to take on additional work further from Kent then our engineers will be 'living out of bags' a lot more. With this comes the cost of accommodation and a wage rise that as a small business we wouldn't be able to afford.
- Local reputation – Having an existing client base in Kent means that this can increase through word of mouth and recommendation. This is vital for a small business and should you move forward with your plans you will ensure a sever of all local connection.

To close, Chatham Docks is a real hub of business, progression and development offering skilled work, apprenticeships and a professional community to build and maintain profitable relationships. It also gives the UK links globally with is manufacturing and trade supporting the countries growth. To make any changes negative to this would have a detrimental effect on the working man, small, large and global businesses and this decision should take all of this into consideration.

If you would like to discuss this further, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Faithfully,

**Joe Ricketts**

Director and concerned business man

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