

Seaport Neighborhood Association

May 24, 2024

Administrator Michael S. Regan
Office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am president of the Seaport Neighborhood Association (SNA) which represents the inhabitants of the area adjacent to the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). I am writing to express strong support for their *EPA Clean Ports Program* application for the zero emission improvements to Flynn Cruiseport Boston. If awarded, this grant will help Massport operate the cruise facility in an environmentally sustainable manner and align with Massport's broader objective for all of its airport and port facilities to be net zero by 2031.

Flynn Cruiseport Boston is a vital transportation and economic resource for the Commonwealth that generates more than \$135 million in economic benefits, supports 2,200 jobs, and creates \$40 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues annually. As Flynn Cruiseport anticipates a 25% increase in passengers in 2024, the industry expectation is to conform to global environmental standards while fostering annual business growth in ships and passengers. Massport's proposed project will reduce the mobile source emissions from Cruiseport operations by implementing shore power for cruise vessels, replacing existing diesel-powered equipment with electric versions, producing on-site renewable energy, and building the necessary supporting infrastructure.

Our community has long supported shore power so that cruise vessels can operate on electricity while in port, reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the surrounding residential areas. Once Flynn Cruiseport is able to provide shore power capabilities, visiting vessels will plug into shore-side electricity and switch off their fossil fuel-powered engines, producing tangible benefits for nearly 40,000 residents within the 1-mile radius of the facility. We recognize the urgent need for the transition to clean energy and fully support this Massport initiative.

Massport's EPA Clean Ports application would enable Flynn Cruiseport to continue to support small and medium businesses throughout the South Boston community, the Commonwealth, and New England. As the average vessel size grows by 36% at Flynn Cruiseport Boston by 2025, so does the number of ships that will require shoreside electricity. By 2028, more than 70% of cruise ships will have shore-side power capability, yet fewer than 10 Cruiseports in the United States provide shore power for large cruise ships.

In summary, an EPA Clean Ports grant will help Flynn Cruiseport Boston transition to a zero-emissions operation, improving air quality for the near-port communities, shift to cleaner energy sources, and help tackle climate change while preserving its role in New England's working waterfront and supporting the region's travel and tourism economy in a sustainable and competitive way.

It is the SNA's hope that you find this application worthy of your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Norm Lind
President
Seaport Neighborhood Association
www.seaportneighbors.org

