



January 20, 2010

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission  
Division of Public Utilities and Carriers  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

# D-10-01

RI DIVISION OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

CKET NO. D-10-01

ISSOR CONANICUT

20 NARRAGANSETT AVENUE • JAMESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND 02835  
PHONE: 401.423.1556 • FAX: 401.423.7159 • www.conanicutmarina.com

DATE: 1

INT. (DATE) 2/15/2010

ALL (DATE) 2/10/2010

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

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2010 JAN 25 PM 12:41  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Opposition to application filed by Aquidneck Ferry & Charter, Inc.

Greetings:

This is written to set out in general terms the opposition of Conanicut Marine Services, Inc. [CMS], the long-standing operator of the Jamestown & Newport Ferry, to the application filed by Aquidneck Ferry & Charter, Inc. [AFC] for a Certificate of Authority to operate a ferry service in Newport harbor, and to Fort Adams and Rose Island.

As the files of the Commission will reflect, CMS is the current holder of certificate MC # W-1162 to operate a ferry service providing the same service sought to be provided by AFC.

The overlap includes our service to Perrotti Park, Bowen's Landing, Fort Adams, and Rose Island.

CMS is the current operator in a line of ferry service between Jamestown and Newport going back to the early 18th Century. For more than a decade, CMS, as operator of the Jamestown & Newport Ferry, has, through hard work and a high level of financial commitment, established a record of reliability and excellent service, despite all of the difficulties inherent in operating a scheduled ferry service on Narragansett Bay in all weather conditions.

The dilution (or "cannibalization") that would result from the granting of AFC's application would effectively end the ability of CMS to operate this important part of access between Newport harbor, Jamestown's East Ferry, Fort Adams, and Rose Island. A vital part of the transportation mix, during the peak season for visitors to Newport, from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, would be put into jeopardy, and, we believe, effectively destroyed.

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We also believe that the schedule proposed by AFC is unreasonably ambitious, and, in practicality, cannot be achieved. Even if AFC had exclusive dedicated dock space at its stops in Newport harbor, it would be very difficult to maintain the schedule it proposes. When one factors in the delays that inevitably occur when an passenger vessel operator shares dock space and congested waterways with others, the schedule proposed by AFC becomes impossible.

To summarize, we submit that:

1. The existing service provided by CMS, and others already licensed and permitted, is more than adequate to meet the need. We can demonstrate that our vessels have substantial excess capacity, and that we are meeting the need for water-borne transportation on the routes we serve.
2. The schedule proposed by AFC is not practically achievable.
3. Granting AFC a permit to operate will damage the existing carriers without achieving any gain for the public.

We look forward to an opportunity to participate in the hearing on AFC's application, and to present such evidence as we believe will be of assistance in acting on that application.

Very truly yours,



William S. Munger  
President  
Certificate Holder MC # W-1162

cc: Addison W. Closson, III, Aquidneck Ferry & Charter, Inc.  
John A. Murphy, Esq.  
Kathleen Silvia, City Clerk, City of Newport  
Eric Hertfelder, Fort Adams Trust  
Terry Nathan, Museum of Yachting  
Bart Dunbar, Bowen's Wharf Company  
David McCurdy, Rose Island Light House Foundation  
Mohamad Farzan, President, Sail Newport