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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

January 28, 2010

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

Dear Commission,

I am writing to set out in general terms the opposition of Oldport Marine Services Inc. to the application filed by Aquidneck Ferry and Charter Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate a ferry service in Newport Harbor.

Oldport Marine Services Inc. currently holds PUC certificates number MC#W-1146 and MC#W-1138 to operate a launch and water ferry service which provides the same service sought to be provided by Aquidneck Ferry and Charter Inc.

The duplication of services includes Oldport Marine's stops at Perrotti Park, Ann Street Pier (when completed), IYRS, Fort Adams State Park and Goat Island.

Oldport Marine Services has been operating launch and water taxi service in Newport Harbor for 30 years and has an excellent reputation for providing a safe, reliable and comfortable water transportation service throughout Newport Harbor. We continue to keep our rates as low as possible with very minor price increases over the years (see attached rate sheet).

The dilution of business that would occur as a direct result from the granting of Aquidneck Ferry Company's application would seriously jeopardize Oldport Marine's existing water taxi service. Profit margins for Oldport's Harbor Shuttle are very slim and allowing another company to operate a shuttle service in Newport Harbor would effectively put an end to our water taxi business.

The current demand for water transportation in Newport Harbor is easily being met by Oldport Marine and The Jamestown Ferry. Oldport Marine has numerous back up vessels which are quickly pressed into service when the demand dictates. During busy periods such as the Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals, Tall Ships, Fourth of July fireworks etc. we will add 2-3 extra vessels to handle the increased passenger volume.

Granting Aquidneck Ferry a permit to operate in Newport Harbor will damage the existing shuttle services and will not provide any gain for the public.

We look forward to meeting with you at the February 15th hearing and please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Matthew P. Gineo
Matthew P. Gineo
Manager
Oldport Marine Services Inc.
401-662-0082

RI DIVISION OF	
PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS	
CKET NO.	<u>D-10-01</u>
NSOR	<u>OLDPORT</u>
HIBIT NO.	<u>1</u>
NT. (DATE)	<u>2/15/2010</u>
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