

D-18-105

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October 2, 2013

Luly Massaro, Clerk
Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

2013 OCT -7 AM 9: 17

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: A & R Marine Corp passenger and freight service to Prudence Island

Dear Ms. Massaro,

I am writing in support of the application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity submitted by A & R Marine for a passenger and freight service from Bristol to Prudence Island. My motivation in extending support is both as a private property owner in both Bristol and Portsmouth (with my primary year-round residence on Prudence Island) as well as that of a staff member of the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve with its lab and office facilities on the south end of Prudence Island.

Personally, I have felt that my way of life has been severely threatened by the possibility of discontinued ferry service, a previously unheard of eventuality in almost 100 years of ferry service but which the current ferry owner expressed his intent to do in a letter to the Portsmouth Town Administrator (a matter of public record). The fact that he has since retracted that statement in no way assures me that we will not be threatened with discontinued service every time the current owner does not get what he wants which, most recently, was the establishment of a Ferry Authority. By contrast, I personally know the individuals comprising A & R Marine Corp. to be conscientious, community spirited, hard-working, and successful in their prior business enterprises so I have every confidence that they would provide excellent ferry service to our community independent of the dramatics that undermined confidence in the present ferry service.

I also can speak confidently for the entire staff at the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve when I say that a consistent, uninterrupted ferry service is essential to maintain our individual program efforts in research, education, and stewardship. Not only does the majority of staff commute to their offices on Prudence Island every day but we accommodate visitors on a regular basis that make use of our facilities for a variety of activities.

I respectfully suggest that it is in the best interests of the entire Prudence Island community that the Division grants this certification to A & R Marine Corp. as expeditiously as possible to ensure continued (and improved) ferry service to Prudence Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Robin L. J. Weber