

MacNeil, Jami

From: Amy Files ♡ SoRO <soroneighbors@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2021 4:21 PM
To: MacNeil, Jami
Subject: Safe Harbor Expansion project in Rockland -- Public Comments

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Dear Jami,

I am submitting comments regarding my concern about the proposed private marina expansion in Rockland, Maine.

I am a Rockland resident and business owner. I've lived here for over 9 years. My father grew up here and we have spent many summers on the Rockland harbor boating. One of the reasons that my partner and I decided to relocate here was because of our neighborhood's proximity to the water.

We are not currently boaters but we are daily walkers. Having access to the water through its views and via the boardwalk is an important part of our daily lives and sanity.

If the marina is allowed to expand as proposed it will permanently alter the experience of the public harbor, the boardwalk and Sandy Beach (Rockland's only public beach).

Currently you can walk down to this area at most any time of the year or day and look out to the ocean and islands. Also important is the view from the South End neighborhood that looks back over the harbor to the city and hills behind. And Sandy Beach, though small, is a lovely, quiet spot to sit and look out at the water -- it feels secluded and open even though it's in the middle of our small city due to the openness you feel when looking out at the water. This experience will be destroyed if Safe Harbor is allowed to expand on land or water to the right of the Archer's restaurant.

What upsets me most about this proposal is that our harbor is a public resource. I would like to think that the days of handing over public resource to private companies for their own profit is over.

If the city is in need of more slips — we can build ones that are publicly accessible and designed to serve smaller boats and fisherman that live here— not the mega yachts that this is designed to accommodate.

This company's main brand is luxury clients and very large (sometimes taller than the homes allowed on land) yachts.

This expansion will not benefit our town but further privatize it, turning it into a seasonal playground for the very rich.

And these yachts it will be home to are extremely unsustainable. The larger 200 footers use hundreds of dollars of fuel within only 10 minutes.

I do not consider it conscionable for a the federal government, state or city to allow any new infrastructure that would contribute to and encourage more (completely unnecessary) fossil fuel use.

Additionally it sounds as though this company would like to provide fuel bunkering which would introduce the potential for spills in our harbor.

Lastly I will just say this -- I walk the board walk daily if not weekly and I regularly see a variety of wildlife in the same exact areas that the expansion and dredging is proposed: loons, heron, ducks, buffleheads and more. There is no question that this expansion would destroy their habitat.

I hope that you will hear the concerns from our residents and come to the same conclusion that I have: this proposal will be damaging to our environment, take away precious public access to public views and water access, and is not in the public's or state's interest.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Files

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Amy Wilder Files | **Artist** | **Designer** | **Community Organizer**