From: generalmanager@residences-icboston.com
To: Waterways, DEP (DEP)
Cc: generalmanager@residences-icboston.com; "Rich Koch"
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Regulatory Amendments to 310 CMR 9.00
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 2:22:57 PM

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Dear Commissioner Suuberg,

The Residences at The InterContinental is a residential condominium community, consisting of 130 homes and over 300 residents. Located on Atlantic Avenue, between Seaport Boulevard and Congress Street, the residents of this building are directly impacted by the Downtown Waterfront Municipal Harbor Plan. This is our neighborhood!

Over the last two months, representatives of our community have participated in the public hearings that have been hosted regarding this proposed amendment. Boston's mayoral candidates have unanimously expressed concerns at those meetings over the Downtown Waterfront MHP and the projects it authorizes. Moreover, the vast majority – if not ALL – of the speakers at those meetings opposed the inclusion of this specific MHP in the proposed amendment. These sentiments mimic the strong feelings that have been vocalized throughout the lengthy harbor planning process.

We share the concerns identified at those meetings. Our residents care deeply about the future of Boston's waterfront and applaud the Superior Court ruling that invalidated parts of the Downtown Waterfront Municipal Harbor Plan. MassDEP must protect the public's rights in tidelands by examining projects individually to ensure they offer adequate public benefits and promote access to and enjoyment of the waterfront. This MHP disregards these priorities, authorizing excessive height on two key waterfront sites and associated wind, shadow, and other impacts that will permanently harm the public's experience.

On behalf of our residents, we wish to go on record OPPOSING the proposed regulatory amendments to 310 CMR 9.00 AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN. It is our request that MassDEP remove the Downtown Waterfront MHP from its proposed amendment. Reinstating this MHP would be a step backwards in combating climate change and systemic challenges like inequality and exclusion. Following a flawed plan like the now defunct Downtown Waterfront MHP, created by a process that few would consider inclusive or responsive to community concerns, will only lead to even more extreme failures. The future of Boston's waterfront will depend on being intentional in our actions and advancing a district-wide vision for an accessible, climate resilient, and inclusive waterfront.

Whether it's rising tides or rising levels of inequality, our city and Commonwealth cannot afford to let these challenges linger by rubber stamping a status quo that has failed too many people and places already. At this point in time, we have a rare second chance to get it right — an opportunity to create a world-class place for our city by advancing an active Downtown Waterfront for all that aligns with the mandate of Ch.91.

The Downtown Waterfront MHP does not further these goals. We urge you to remove it from the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees
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