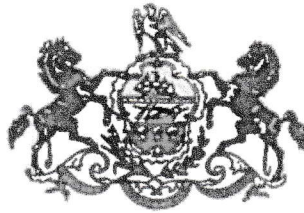


**SENATOR
DAN LAUGHLIN
49TH DISTRICT**

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Senate of Pennsylvania

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URBAN AFFAIRS & HOUSING

January 7, 2022

Nancy Moses, Board Chair
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
State Museum Building
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairperson Moses:

The Erie Community was delighted to welcome the U.S. Brig Niagara back to home port at the Erie Maritime Museum on December 15, 2021. Moreover, we are eagerly awaiting the return of the summer sailing season especially since the Ship has lost two sailing seasons due to the pandemic.

The Community is also very excited and planning for the next Tall Ships Festival scheduled to take place in August 2022. As you know, the Brig Niagara is the main attraction for what is the largest Tall Ships gathering on the Great Lakes. The Festival makes everyone proud and has a very substantial economic impact to the City and County.

Recently, we have been made aware of some extremely concerning comments made by PHMC staff to the Erie Maritime Museum volunteers, Flagship Niagara League staff and board members, as well as our community business and educational partners. We are very confused as to what PHMC's thoughts are about the future of the Ship, the Museum and the League in general.

In addition, the documents executed over ten years ago between the Flagship Niagara League and PHMC need to be revisited as a result of the confusing directives coming from PHMC staff.

To that end the Erie County Legislative Delegation is hereby requesting that PHMC chairperson Nancy Moses, PHMC Executive Director Andrea Lowery, Bureau of Historic Sites and Museum (BHSM) Director Melissa Mann, BHSM Western Division Chief Charlie Fox and Erie Maritime Museum Site Administrator James Hall be present at a public forum here in Erie at a mutually convenient time to discuss all of these issues in an open and transparent manner.

Mrs. Regina Smith from Senator Dan Laughlin's district office will serve as point person to arrange the logistics, format and agenda. Please communicate with her and she will keep the other legislative offices apprised of the date and time, obviously, the sooner the better.

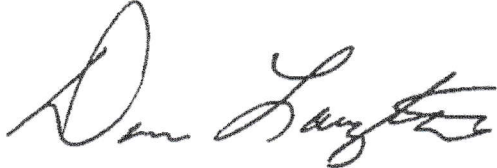
Nancy Moses, Board Chair

January 7, 2022

Page Two (2)

Members and contributors to the Flagship Niagara League, Museum volunteers, as well as the community at large have contributed significant financial support, time and sweat equity over the past decade to both the Brig and the Maritime Museum. They deserve a comprehensive briefing about what the future looks like for these very important regional and commonwealth assets.

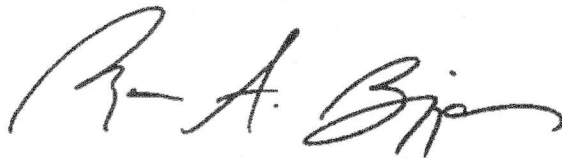
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Laughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

Senator Dan Laughlin (R-49)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Brooks". The signature is cursive and clearly legible.

Senator Michele Brooks (R-50)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. Bizarro". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Representative Ryan Bizarro (D-3)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Harkins". The signature is cursive and clearly legible.

Representative Patrick J. Harkins (D-1)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Merski". The signature is cursive and clearly legible.


Representative Robert Merski (D-2)



Representative Brad Roae (R-6)



Representative Curt Sonney (D-4)



Representative Parke Wentling (R-17)

cc: The Honorable Tom Wolf
The Honorable John Fetterman
Andrea Lowery
Melissa Mann
Charles Fox
James Hall
William Sabatini
Scott Nick