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March 7, 2007

Public Testimony

Kevin J. Traver

Executive Director

National Maritime Heritage Foundation

Good Morning. I would like to speak on behalf of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation (AWC) this morning. AWC has been supportive of all the National Maritime Heritage Foundation (NMHF) undertakings during the last two and half years. As we have heard today about AWC funding for non-profits organizations working in around the Anacostia River and that its total support has reached the \$650,000.00 mark and has connected over 10,000 students and youth to the rivers. Our mission at NMHF is *to inspire minds through maritime educational experiences* and AWC support has helped our foundation to complete its mission. Through grants from the AWC NMHF was able to bring tall ship education programs to over 1000 students in the last two years. NMHF has done this through a two year partnership with DC Park and Recreation, bringing our exciting brand of hands on education to students of Wards 6, 7 and 8. It should be pointed out that in 2006 67% of our students had never been on the Anacostia or Potomac Rivers! Without AWC funding these students would never had the opportunity to experience the rivers.

Additionally, NMHF has been involved in the Southwest Waterfront Re-development since the initial RFEI was issued and is currently one of the culture partners of the PN Hoffman, Strever Brothers Rouse team. During this process the AWC staff was professional and responsive. NMHF looks forward to working with AWC to build an improved waterfront community at the Southwest Waterfront.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff, membership and students I would urge you to support the AWC. AWC as an organization has changed the waterfront in Washington, D.C. for the better. Your continued support of AWC will see new communities opened along the waterfront, new economic opportunities for residents and continue growth of the AWI vision. Please support a "Living Waterfront Community" which would not be possible without AWC.

Thank you.