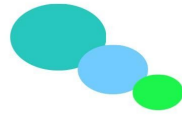


STOPDISNEY.COM



LAST CHANCE FOR
LIGHTHOUSE POINT

October 27, 2020

The Honourable Romauld Sotario Ferreira
Minister of the Environment and Housing
Member of Parliament (FNM)
Charlotte House (2nd Floor),
Shirley & Charlotte Street
P. O. Box N-4849
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

Dr. Mark Penning
Vice President of Animals Science and Environment
The Walt Disney Company
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521-9722

Dear Minister Ferreira and Dr. Penning,

Request for Information on Status of Disney Cruise Line's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for its proposed development at Lighthouse Point on Eleuthera and Suggested Timeline

We are writing to inquire about the status of Disney Cruise Line's EIA for the proposed cruise ship port at Lighthouse Point in Southern Eleuthera and to propose a timeline for its consideration.

On September 25th, Department of Environmental Planning and Protection Director, Rochelle Newbold, was quoted as saying that in a "matter of weeks" the review of EIA for the project by the Department would be completed and the document would be released for public review. At the same time, we believe that the EIA should be resubmitted in light of the recently tabled 2020 Draft EIA Regulations.

As you know, our organizations have been eager to engage in the EIA process at Lighthouse Point, and have repeatedly written to both Disney and the Government of The Bahamas. For the past eighteen months we have been working to ensure consideration of an economically and environmentally sustainable future for Lighthouse Point. Now is not the time to rush ahead with decisions on investments that do not take into account the new normal. We want to support and assure a fully comprehensive EIA of the project that takes into account critical issues that impact not only this project, but more generally the restart of the cruise ship industry - economics and systemic injustice, COVID, and climate change. We also ask that the EIA take into account the new international [“Principles for Responsible Cruise Tourism.”](#)

The EIA process must include a thorough and transparent public consultation - as has been repeatedly promised by Disney. We have engaged with numerous international experts and scientists who remain ready to review the EIA, and ourselves have more than 100 years of combined expertise with the Bahamian environment. We are eager to assist in making this EIA process a model of how a major multinational corporation and a small-island state can indeed “rethink before restarting” in this new world with a changing climate, pandemics and growing demands for more justice and equity.

We would like to recommend the following timeline for the EIA process at Lighthouse Point:

- Finalization of the 2020 Draft EIA Regulations after consideration of our recently submitted comments.
- Resubmission of the EIA by Disney after 1) amendments to comply with 2020 EIA Regulations, 2) its incorporation of the critical new issues of, COVID-19, climate change, and systemic injustice, and 3) an updated economic study.
- Publication of Disney’s draft EIA for public review.
- Two weeks notice to the public pursuant to the draft EIA regulations of the start of the public consultation process.
- The legally required consultation period for comment and hearings, pursuant to our suggested revisions to the 2020 draft EIA regulations. We would suggest that this period be ninety days minimum. This should include virtual hearings with members of the general public in Eleuthera and in Nassau as well as virtual meetings with experts.
- Consideration of all public comments and adjustment of EIA to account for issues raised during the public consultation period.
- Resubmission of the EIA and its consideration
- Decision on the Environmental Authorisation by the Department.

Based on the support we have gotten from more than 320,000 supporters from The Bahamas and across the world who have signed onto our [change.org petition](#), it is clear that there is international interest in the future of Lighthouse Point and the EIA. We would be very grateful if

you could provide us with any available information about the status of Lighthouse Point in light of the pandemic and Disney's severe economic challenges and the timeline for the submission and review and the requisite public consultation. We are also eager to set up a virtual meeting to discuss these issues, as well as how we might contribute to the process moving forward.

Thank you and we look forward to the potential for collaboration on this issue.

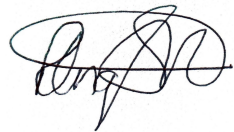
Respectfully,



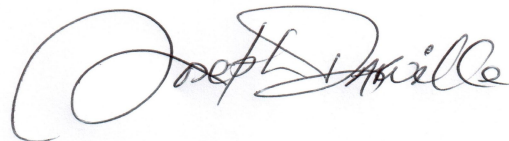
Sam Duncombe
Executive Director
reEarth



Casuarina McKinney-Lambert
Executive Director
Bahamas Reef Environment
Educational Foundation



Rashema Ingraham
Executive Director
Waterkeepers Bahamas



Joseph Darville
Chairman
Save the Bays



Marc Yaggi
Executive Director
Waterkeeper Alliance

cc: Rochelle newbold, Director, Department of Environmental Planning and Protection
Kim Prunty, Vice President, Communications & Public Affairs