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LAST CHANCE FOR
LIGHTHOUSE POINT

September 27, 2021

The Hon. Vaughn Miller, M.P.
Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources
Charlotte House (2nd Floor),
Shirley & Charlotte Street
P. O. Box N-4849
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

Dear Minister Miller:

Request for Reconsideration of Lighthouse Point and a Meeting

First, we want to convey our sincere congratulations and best wishes to you on your appointment as the Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources in the new Government of the Bahamas. We would like to request a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss the reconsideration of plans for Lighthouse Point and related major environmental issues.

We are greatly encouraged by the commitments made by Prime Minister Brave Davis and other Government leaders to transparent and accountable governance. We - as representatives of Bahamian citizen organizations and their international partners - are eager for a fresh start with your Ministry. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to address challenges in our nation and work together on a way forward.

We write to you today, on behalf of the [Stop Disney: Last Chance for Lighthouse Point](#) campaign, to call attention to [our September 9, 2021 statement](#) that asks “**the next Government of The Bahamas, to be elected on September 16th, to undertake a formal reconsideration of the proposed Disney project at Lighthouse Point, including requiring DCL to supplement its EIA with additional analyses and consultations.**” The [statement](#) outlines serious flaws in the environmental review process conducted by the previous Administration.

In March 2019, then opposition leader Brave Davis [criticized the Government's lack of transparency](#) in the secret signing of the Heads of Agreement with Disney, which set out the necessary governmental reviews and approvals to proceed with the proposed cruise port. According to a press report, Davis said **“questions persisted over the deal, including: the environmental impact study, how Bahamians will benefit, and how the landmark will be protected from ruin by poor developmental practices.”**

Current Minister of Education and then Member of Parliament for Englerston, Glenys Hanna Martin, also issued a [detailed statement](#) slamming the Heads of Agreement with Disney: **“the administration has failed miserably to negotiate a fair and equitable arrangement for the Bahamian people or to ensure that opportunities are maximized for the Bahamian people.”**

Unfortunately, the onset of the pandemic in 2020 halted efforts by Alfred Sears, now Minister of Public Utilities and then Chair of the One Eleuthera Foundation, to facilitate a real dialogue with the communities near Lighthouse Point to assure that they, and The Bahamas were getting a “good deal.” From the outset, Disney and its allies have stifled the voices of Bahamians expressing serious concerns about the project. We hope that the voters' removal of the M.P. who “invited” Disney to Lighthouse Point will **abate the climate of fear and intimidation surrounding this project. We look to your Ministry to assure that both the public's right to be heard and the environment are protected in the government's decision making process on Lighthouse Point.**

Both Disney and the previous Government refused to make public the full data on the economics of the deal. A study conducted by Oxford Economics purportedly proves that the project will benefit the local and national economy. Yet Disney still has not released the full document. Last Spring, our Campaign hosted extended public consultations on the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The first of these consultations was focussed on the economic claims associated with the project. Disney refused our invitation to attend. The content of these meetings were reflected in our [extensive written comments](#) on the EIA; unfortunately, our comments were dismissed by DCL's EIA consultants.

Lighthouse Point is an important first test of your new Government's resolve to address the most existential environmental challenges facing our country, most importantly climate change and protection of our marine resources. **It is ironic that Disney is now asking the new Government for permission to construct a cruise ship port at the Lighthouse Point, which sits at the heart of 18,000 acres of seas around Lighthouse Point - officially gazetted as a Marine Protected Area in July 2021.**

As we head towards the next UN Climate Conference in Glasgow this November, the world is watching what The Bahamas and Disney does. More than 450,000 people have supported

the Campaign's [change.org petition](#) - more supporters than any other such petition in the history of The Bahamas.

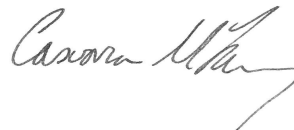
We hope that your Ministry will pause the rush to grant environmental approvals for this project and require Disney to give serious consideration to a better, more equitable alternative, including a Disney Land and Sea Legacy Park. For two years, our groups have stood ready to cooperate with Disney to identify a more appropriate alternative site for its cruise port. Disney claims that they are following the same high environmental standards at Lighthouse Point that they would anywhere else in the world. They say they will not proceed with their current plans unless they are “environmentally responsible.” We hope that your Government will perform much better than the last by holding Disney accountable for these promises.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you (virtually and in person) at your earliest convenience to discuss Lighthouse Point and other pressing environmental matters.

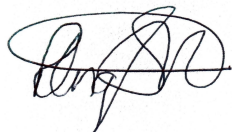
Sincerely,



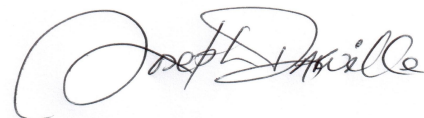
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Please respond to all the signatories on this letter through: Sam Duncombe, reEarth,
samduncombe@stopdisney.com or 1 242 445-7807