

CITY OF BELFAST

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Joseph J. Slocum
City Manager

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June 7, 2012

Searsport Planning Board
Town Office
PO Box 499
1 Union St.
Searsport, Maine 04974

Re: The Proposed LPG Tank for Mack Point

Dear Honorable Members of the Searsport Planning Board,

The City Council of Belfast has reviewed the letter forwarded to you by the Town of Islesboro, dated May 30, 2012.

The City Council of Belfast also recognizes that this developments is likely to have a broader impact on the Mid-coast region.

In February, the City asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to require a thorough environmental impact study of this project to make sure that environmental, safety, economic, health and security impacts were all properly vetted prior to issuing any approvals. In April the Army Corp responded that there was no need for a public hearing. In their decision they noted that pursuant to CFR 327.4 (b) unless the district engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid reason served by a hearing the request for the hearing SHALL be granted. Nevertheless the Army Corp of Engineers, after acknowledging 19 points raised by municipalities and citizens relating to safety, environmental, economic, health and other concerns, concluded that they had sufficient information to adequately evaluate these matters without further discussion with anyone.

The need here is for transparency in the details of this project. There is also a need for the external communication of objective information by independent reviewers to all persons reasonably likely to be affected by this project.

The last opportunity for a thorough review of this proposal appears to be left to you. We also ask that you recognize the many logical regional concerns that have been raised and grant our municipality the right to participate in your permit review process. We have a

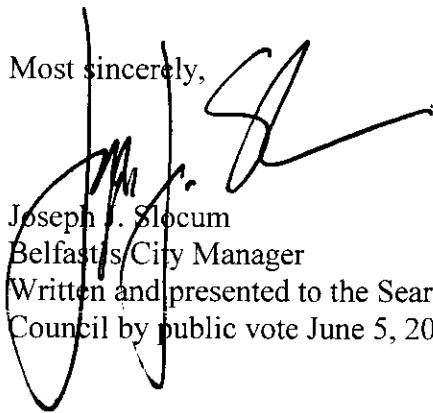
history of working closely with other Municipalities- including Searsport- on matters of economic development, public safety, general welfare and regional traffic matters.

If for any reason you feel that you can not grant our request then we respectfully ask that you do everything that you can to respond to the publics concerns about safety, environmental, navigational, health and security aspects of this proposed project.

The City has not taken an official position on this proposal other than to seek an open, transparent and independent review that is communicated clearly to all potential stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Slocum', is written over the printed name and title.

Joseph J. Slocum

Belfast's City Manager

Written and presented to the Searsport Planning Board at the direction of Belfast City Council by public vote June 5, 2012.