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September 24, 2018

Teresa Polhemus
Executive Director/Clerk
Boston Planning and Development Agency
Boston City Hall, Room 910
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201

Re: Request for Proposals, EDIC Berth 10 Dock and Watersheet

Dear Ms. Polhemus,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Thompson Island Outward Bound proposal to establish a gateway to Boston Harbor and the Boston Harbor Islands and National State Park at Berth 10.

Through its partnership with Boston's public schools, Thompson Island's free programs provide thousands of Boston's youth the opportunity to step outside the classroom and experience hands-on field science education that encourages character development and minimizes Boston's existing achievement and opportunity gaps.

Boston Harbor Now envisions a thriving harbor that belongs to everyone and fosters economic and community health and wellbeing. We accomplish this by working with public, for-profit and nonprofit partners to create equitable access through programming that promotes recreational and educational uses.

The existing Berth 10 ramp and float system is at the end of its useful life. Approval of a long-term lease will provide Thompson Island Outward Bound the chance to build an ADA compliant ramp and float and ensure that students of all levels and abilities will continue to have access to Boston Harbor and the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park for decades to come.

As an organization uniquely qualified to achieve the development objectives of the RFP, we ask that you support Thompson Island's proposal and ensure future generations of Boston youth are provided access to the harbor as well as a life-changing educational experience through the Thompson Island Outward Bound program.

Sincerely,

Jill Valdes Horwood
Director of Policy