

ITALO S. CAPPABIANCA, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

December 21, 1993

Honorable Robert P. Casey, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
238 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Casey:

Recently your office received a letter from Mr. Christopher Baldwin, Chief Executive Officer for the Lake Erie Aquarium and Science Center, seeking your support for this very worthwhile project. I echo Mr. Baldwin's thoughts and also seek your attention and consideration of this very important proposal.

I have enclosed herewith a copy of the prospectus for this aquarium. As you will find, this will be a first class, top-notch facility. It will be an educational tool for thousands of students, as well as a tourist attraction for citizens of New York, Ohio and Canada. This is a very promising project, one to which I hope you will give serious consideration. I have discussed with Mr. Baldwin that at the current time there is no Capital Budget, the most likely way to fund this plan. However, we are hopeful that with your support and commitment, the money could be found to see this aquarium become a reality.

Aquariums have meant the revitalization of several areas nationwide. The Tennessee Aquarium has brought literally millions of dollars of tourist income to that state, and the aquariums in Baltimore, MD and Camden, NJ, have been cornerstones for attracting much needed tourist dollars to those states as well. Your assistance could bring similar dollars to our Commonwealth.

Thank you for your attention to this plan, I welcome you back and wish you the very best for this Holiday Season, and the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Italo S. Cappabianca', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Italo S. Cappabianca
Representative, 2nd District

ISC/cmr

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COMMITTEES
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 5, 1993

SUBJECT: Aquarium Project

TO: Chris Baldwin

FROM: Rep. Italo S. Cappabianca

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Italo S. Cappabianca', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The following is a list of individuals who have confirmed their plans to attend our NOVEMBER 17 meeting. I hope this is helpful to you. Should you have any questions in this regard, please call Cheryl Reynolds, in my Harrisburg office. I look forward to our meeting.

- Senator Harris Wofford's Office**.....Karen Sugarman
- Office of the Budget**.....Brian Lecher, Budget Analyst
Gene Beeman, Budget Analyst
- Department of Commerce**.....David Washburn, Legislative Liaison
- Department of Community Affairs**.....Frank Ryder, Legislative Liaison
- Department of Education**.....Sara Parker, Commissioner of Libraries
- Department of Environmental Resources**.....James Akers, Legislative Liaison
- Department of Labor & Industry**.....Jack McNulty, Director of Labor-
Management Cooperation
Larry Williamson
- Game Commission**.....Steven Williams, Deputy Director
- Historical & Museum Commission**.....Dr . Brent Glass, Executive Director
- Fish Commission**.....(awaiting individual name)

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

September 13, 1993

Honorable Donald M. Carroll, Secretary
Department of Education
10th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Secretary Carroll:

As you may be aware, the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the City and County of Erie has long been committed to major redevelopment projects in the Erie area, i.e. the Flagship Niagara, the Bayfront Highway and the Maritime Museum. These efforts have brought about great change and promise in utilizing the Commonwealth's only fresh water port, and only access to the Great Lakes.

Currently under consideration and development is a project which I feel holds great promise. One which I believe will be the crowning jewel in this bayfront development. The **LAKE ERIE AQUARIUM AND SCIENCE CENTER** will bring tourism and research opportunities to our state that we do not currently have available. We have all seen how the National Aquarium has become a cornerstone to development for Baltimore, Maryland. This project in Erie will do the same for Pennsylvania.

Your Department could play a vital role in bringing this aquarium and science center into existence. Therefore, I seek your assistance by attending an informational, preliminary meeting with the Erie Legislative Delegation, several other Departmental representatives, and numerous interested local officials to discuss this very important project, in Harrisburg, sometime around the middle of November.

Please contact my office regarding your plans for attendance, including what dates you, or your staff are available within those few weeks. I look forward to working with you in developing this aquarium and science center, the possibilities are endless and the benefits countless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Italo'.

Italo S. Cappabianca
Representative, 2nd District

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

April 20, 1993

Mr. Christopher Baldwin, Chairman
Lake Erie Aquarium & Science Center
1006 State Street
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Chris:

Thank you for your letter and our recent meeting regarding your proposed fresh water aquarium and science center. This plan holds great promise for the bayfront and would, without a doubt, become a crowd pleaser. Unfortunately, the timing for this project is off a bit. It is not likely that the General Assembly will be passing another Capital Budget in the next few years. As a matter of fact, there are still quite a few projects from the last year's Capital Budget still awaiting financing.

As I mentioned to you before, there are no legislative initiatives in the present fiscal year budget, (ending June 30, 1993). However, I am optimistic that there will be legislative initiatives in the next year's budget and with that, I am hopeful that a grant for a feasibility study could be secured.

While the prospects for state funding may seem bleak, please know that I am continuing to search for alternative avenues. I will be contacting the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and seeking their assistance in this endeavor. Such a worthwhile project should be given every opportunity to be developed.

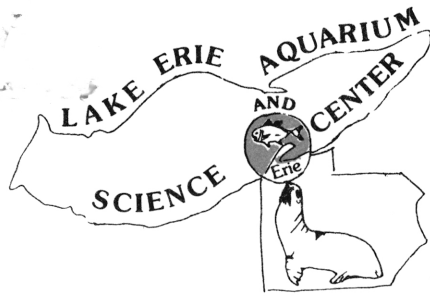
Thank you again for coming to me on this. I will do whatever I can to promote this plan and pledge my support.

Sincerely,



Italo S. Cappabianca
Representative, 2nd District

ISC/cmr



LAKE ERIE AQUARIUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

1006 State Street • Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

A Cathedral of Science & Education

Christopher S. Baldwin, Chairman - C.E.O.
W. Robert Chandler, President
Robert W. Light, Ph.D., 1st Vice President
Jerry B. Covert, Ph.D., 2nd Vice President

April 8, 1993

Italo Cappabianca
1216 W. 26th Street
Erie, Pa. 16504

Dear Mr. Cappabianca :

I am Chairman and C.E.O. of the LAKE ERIE AQUARIUM AND SCIENCE CENTER soon to be a 501C3 non profit corporation.

The proposed project is construction of a 60,000 square foot freshwater aquarium and research center in the " Penelec Developement" on the Lake Erie bayfront in Erie, Pennsylvania.

"AQUARIUM - The word alone brings excitement to children of all ages, from the infant who is attracted to the bright colors and gliding movements, to the grade schoolers whose interest and enthusiam in science is unmatched at any age, to the high school and college student working on a research project, to adults looking for continueing education or for a soothing, informative, educational, interesting way to find diversion from their every day lives.

A fresh water aquarium is also the dream of biology educators / researchers. It provides an opportunity, in a more controlled way, to mimic the real world of streams, ponds, and lakes." Jerry Covert Phd., Edinboro University.

The aquarium and science research center will be an international consortium of colleges and universities to advance education, tourism, science, and health. The end result being an improvement in our region's "quality of life". Our established goal is to have the entire facility declared Pennsylvania's "State Aquarium" and "SEA

GRANT COLLEGE". To date Pennsylvania is the only Great Lakes State not included in the federal Sea Grant Program. Therefore, none of the Commonwealth's colleges or universities are eligible to compete for federal Sea Grant Support monies. The Sea Grant monies over the past 4 years alone were \$160,000,000. The Sea Grant program was established in 1972.

The theme of the aquarium is "The GREAT LAKES and the lakes of the world". This will enable us to display and research interesting exotic species. The aquarium will be patterned after (yet less than 1/2 the size of) the Tennessee Aquarium, which was recognized in the March 13, 1993 issue of Parade Magazine as one of the top 2 aquariums in the country. We have as, our advisors, the same people who have made the TENNESSEE AQUARIUM and other states aquarium projects major success.

In order to demonstrate to you the support within our community for such a facility, we have succeeded in doing the following: To date, we have recieved \$13,000 in contributions from various people and businesses in Erie in support the project. Additionally, we have recieved approximately \$100,000 in in-kind services from the Erie community. We will recieve \$33,000 to \$40,000 from Coastal Zone Management on January, 1994 and are confident of recieving a \$50,000 grant from The National Science Foundation in 1993. We have recieved letters of support from our local political leaders, the Erie County Health Department, the I-U school districts state wide, and the local universities of our community including the University of Pittsburgh branch in Tittusville, Pa., and Penn State Behrend College.

Aquariums have legendary track records in successful community revitalization. This facility in Erie would revitalize not only our local area but also our region within a 75 mile radius that includes the Lake Erie areas of Ohio, Penna., and New York. The revitalization would include health, education, notarity, as well as the economics.

Please let me know of your committment in making this project a reality within 4 years. For further information please feel free to call me.

Respectfully,

Christopher S. Baldwin

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COMMITTEES

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 18, 1993

Mr. Chris Baldwin
Lake Erie Aquarium and Science Center
1006 State Street
Erie, PA 16501

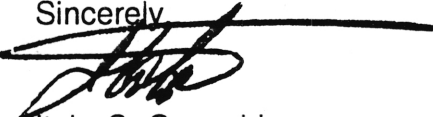
Dear Chris:

Pursuant to my correspondence, and our recent conversation, this will confirm that our informational meeting with Departmental representatives is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, at 10:00 A.M., in ROOM 302 of the SOUTH OFFICE BUILDING**, in the Capitol Complex, Harrisburg.

I have been in contact with several Departments and have been assured that the Secretaries will do their best to attend, or may send a representative.

Please contact me if there is anything additional you will need for this meeting.

Sincerely


Italo S. Cappabianca
Representative, 2nd District

ISC/cmr



OFFICE OF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
717-787-3633

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 ELMERTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:

ADMINISTRATION	787-5670
AUTOMOTIVE AND PROCUREMENT DIVISION	787-6594
LICENSE DIVISION	787-2084
PERSONNEL DIVISION	787-7836
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	787-5529
INFORMATION & EDUCATION	787-6286
LAW ENFORCEMENT	787-5740
LAND MANAGEMENT	787-6818
REAL ESTATE DIVISION	787-6568
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS	787-4076

October 5, 1993

Honorable Italo S. Cappabianca
House of Representatives
Room 30, East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

Dear Representative Cappabianca:

Thank you for the invitation to participate in a meeting discussing the development of the Lake Erie Aquarium and Science Center. This project appears to be a most worthwhile endeavor for Pennsylvania residents as well as visitors from other states.

Although the focus of the proposed aquarium and science center is primarily freshwater ecosystems, which is the principal authority of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, we are interested in learning more about the project. To that end, I intend to send at least one representative from my staff to attend the preliminary meeting held in Harrisburg in mid-November. I expect our participation to be one of information gathering only. Because of the nature of the proposal and the Fish and Boat Commission's authority, we probably would not play a major role in its development or implementation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate. I look forward to hearing from you with respect to the meeting date and time.

Very truly yours,

Peter S. Duncan
Executive Director

cc: Donald C. Madl, Deputy Executive Director
Steve Williams, Deputy Executive Director
Lantz A. Hoffman, Director, Information and Education
H. L. Harshaw, Director, NW Region

Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

P.O. Box 67000
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000
(717) 657-4515

September 21, 1993

The Honorable Italo S. Cappabianca
Member, House of Representatives
Room 30, East Wing
Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Cappabianca:

Thank you for including the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in your plans for an informational meeting concerning the proposed Lake Erie Aquarium and Science Center. The Commission is the Commonwealth's leader in aquatic resource education and Lake Erie Research, and feels this project blends nicely with its current and future plans.

The Commission will be represented at your planned meeting, however, I would like to personally attend, if possible. I have the following dates open:

November 5, 8, 9, 10, 19, 22, 23, and 30

Please keep us advised on the final meeting arrangements, and be assured that the PFBC shares your enthusiasm for this project.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Miller
Executive Director

M/t

cc: Commissioner Concilla
Commissioner Lacy
Larry Hoffman
Joe Greene
Steve Ulsh

96460

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COMMITTEES

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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September 13, 1993

Honorable Donald M. Carroll, Secretary
Department of Education
10th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Secretary ~~Carroll~~: *Don*

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