



## Coastal Conservation Association Of New Hampshire

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Honorable Mayor Jack Blalock  
Mayor's Office  
1 Junkins Ave,  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Mayor Blalock:

The Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire (CCA NH) is a non-profit organization with over 200 members dedicated to the protection and restoration of our marine resources. We are therefore very concerned regarding any further delay in the upgrading of Portsmouth's sewage facility to secondary treatment.

Certainly, at times construction at Peirce Island will be inconvenient, but continued delay will also be inconvenient for water quality throughout the estuary. We cannot forget the absolute need to control the continued discharge of pollutants to the estuary coming from the Peirce Island plant; a discharge that will continue until the plant is upgraded.

Hundreds of tons of pollutants—BOD, TSS, and viruses—are degrading the health of Great Bay, Little Bay, the Piscataqua River, and all parts of the lower estuary every year. The entire system is impaired for the loss of eelgrass. Shell-fishing opportunities do not exist downriver from Peirce Island, all around New Castle Island, and along the Atlantic shore down to the Seacoast Science Center in Rye. Those areas will not be considered for opening until a secondary plant is built.

In response to the present condition of these shared and public waters, we note progress elsewhere—two new plants in the making; significant upgrades planned at two others; and significant nitrogen discharge reductions at another two—but not in Portsmouth. While this is good news elsewhere, compliance in Portsmouth is essential as soon as possible. Continued delay is unacceptable.

We join with other conservation/environmental groups who seek construction of a sewage plant at Peirce Island soon as possible. Please vote to bond the project and move ahead with this desperately needed upgrade. We ask that this letter be made part of the public record. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Swanson  
President CCA NH

#### DEDICATED TO CONSERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MARINE

*The Coastal Conservation Association of NH ("CCA NH") is an unincorporated state chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association ("CCA"), which currently has over 96,000 members in seventeen states. CCA is a nonprofit, public charity corporation that is qualified under IRC §501(c)(3).*

*Donations to CCA NH are tax deductible under IRC §170.*