

Cori Convertito, PhD
504 Bahama Street
Key West, Florida 33040

Key West Bight Management District Board
Old City Hall
510 Greene Street
Key West, Florida 33040

June 10, 2015

RE: Schooner Western Union Funding Request

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

Owing to travel plans that were established months ago, I am unable to attend the Key West Bight Management District Board meeting this evening. I would like to submit this letter as a show of my support for the request for \$250,000 to assist with preserving the schooner *Western Union*. With the Board's financial support, the schooner *Western Union* can apply for a grant from the State of Florida with the aim of restoring our State's Flagship and have her sailing again.

I have been a member of the Schooner Western Union Preservation Society's board for over two years and enjoy supporting such a superb exemplar of local maritime history. As a maritime historian, I truly recognize the significance of the schooner *Western Union* and her historical connection to Key West.

Kind Regards,



Cori Convertito, PhD