



May 16, 2023

Via email

Mayor Teri Johnston
Commissioner Weekley
Commissioner Carey
Commissioner Kaufman
Commissioner Hoover
Commissioner Wardlow
Commissioner Lopez
The City of Key West
1300 White Street
Key West, FL 33040

Re: Pier B Development Corporation Request to Modify Existing Submerged Land Lease

Dear Mayor and City Commissioners,

Last Stand requests that the City of Key West oppose the lease modifications asked by Pier B Development Corporation from the State of Florida due to the following concerns:

- The Citizens of Key West have repeatedly shown their desire for limiting the size of cruise ships in port. Pier B's request would enlarge the lease of Florida state submerged land to Pier B by 40% and will allow larger cruise ships to berth. Additionally, Pier B's request also provides a provision to extend the lease of the state land to Pier B for an additional 25 years. Pier B's proposal is in opposition to the public interest of the people of Key West.
- The Pier B Cruiseport operates in an environmentally sensitive area, designated as Outstanding Florida Waters and within the FL Keys Area of Critical State Concern and the FL Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Pier B has not addressed how larger ships using the larger lease area may impact turbidity levels in local waters and the associated environmental harm it will cause.

If Pier B's request is approved, the practical effect it will have is to tie up the submerged land for decades and hinder future efforts to move away from massive cruise ships. It will hurt an environmentally sensitive area and provide little benefit to the Citizens of Key West.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully,

Mary Spillane

On Behalf of the Last Stand Board of Directors

Last Stand | P.O. Box 146 | Key West, FL 33041 | info@keyslaststand.org | www.keyslaststand.org