



Government Affairs

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The Honorable Rose Harvey, Commissioner
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza Agency Building 1
Albany NY, 12238

July 23, 2012

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

BoatU.S. is the nation's largest organization of recreational boaters with more than 500,000 members nationwide and over 37,000 members in New York. Our members enjoy this family friendly activity using a wide range of sizes and styles of boats. Their activities range from long-distance cruising to weekend excursions, day trips, and evening sails. Marinas, ramps and other shore-side amenities are a critical part of making boating possible for millions of Americans.

We understand your office is currently in the process of evaluating a state parks capital improvement plan. As part of that effort, we urge you to support the renovation of the marina facilities at Sampson State Park on Seneca Lake. As part of one of the premier inland lake and canal cruising grounds, Sampson State Park plays an important role in supporting recreational boating in this part of New York. As you may know, the Erie Canal is one of the highlights of the so called "Great Loop", a water route around the eastern United States traveled by thousands in private boats every year. Sampson State Park can provide a very attractive destination for many of these boaters.

Given that New York State Parks administers the federal **Boating Infrastructure Grant** program, marina renovation could be enhanced to serve transient boaters through use of these funds. This will, of course, allow your agency to leverage its state dollars. As the original proponent of the BIG program, BoatU.S. encourages states to take full advantage of this program which is funded by federal fuel taxes paid by boaters.

We appreciate your consideration of the marina at Sampson State Park and other boating access projects as you develop the state parks capital improvement plan. Please feel free to call on BoatU.S. if you have any additional questions regarding recreational boating.

Sincerely,

Ryck Ludecker, Assistant Vice President for
Government Affairs, and Associate Editor,
BoatU.S. Magazine