

Mr. Rick Dykstra, MP

61 Geneva Street

St. Catharines, ON

L2R 4MC

Dear Mr. Dykstra,

It is with a great deal of concern that I am writing you this letter in an attempt to understand what specifically your government is doing to help support our marine industry at Port Weller Dry Docks.

I have lived and worked in St. Catharines for many years and come to appreciate the tremendous benefits our community has to offer. My father worked in the local marine yard and carved out a living for our family by providing a fair days work for a fair days pay. Not too long ago, the government recruited marine professionals from Great Britain to work here and build a ship building industry. Those recruits came to Canada, helped build an industry and contributed in many ways to the quality of life we had.

Now, government seems focused on building ships in only the Maritime province or abroad. I read with dismay that your government is supporting free trade with Europe among other countries thereby essentially eviscerating our domestic new ship building industry. I must conclude that you too, despite being our representative and having benefited from the commercial affect of this industry as a resident, support the demise of this vital industry. It should go without saying that shipping goods by water is much more environmentally friendly and responsible than other means. It should go without saying that the shipbuilding industry creates jobs and futures for the skilled workers in our area. Despite these obvious facts, it seems you do nothing to help our local industry to improve and once again grow. You must somehow believe that foreigners will help build ships to sail our Canadian great lakes, manage our international waters and provide other basic services. It seems ridiculous and downright unpatriotic to me that government spend our tax dollars to build and buy ships made by foreigners who pay not one cent of Canadian taxes and contribute nothing positive to our community or economy.

When are you going to stand up for me and others in our area, needing marine jobs? When will you make a specific stand to support our marine industry with tangible and financial support? Am I, a skilled worker to move to move overseas and hope your government will ensure a marine industry there? What are you doing to help the marine industry in our riding?

When will you represent me, a Canadian living in St. Catharines?

I ask you to call me and address my concerns and questions.

Regards