

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. 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.

I read with dismay that your government is now supporting free but not fair trade with Europe among other countries thereby essentially killing our domestic new ship building industry. It should go without saying that building ships here and shipping goods by water is much more environmentally friendly and responsible than other means. The shipbuilding industry creates jobs and futures for the skilled workers in our area. It seems ridiculous and downright unpatriotic to me that our 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? When are you going to help keep and create marine jobs? When will you make a specific stand to support our marine industry with tangible and financial support? When will you represent me, a Canadian living in St. Catharines?

I ask you to call me or write to me to addressing my concerns and questions.

Regards