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Institute of Marine & Coastal Sciences

71 Dudley Road / New Brunswick / New Jersey 08901-8521 / USA
Phone: 732.932.6555 / Fax: 732.932.8578 / Url: <http://marine.rutgers.edu>

August 23, 2008

Mr. William deCamp, Jr., Chairman
Save Barnegat Bay
906-B Grand Central Avenue
Lavallette, NJ 08735

Dear Mr. deCamp:

Eutrophication poses the most serious threat to the long-term health and function of the Barnegat Bay-Little Egg Harbor Estuary. Originally classified as eutrophic nearly 20 years ago by investigators at Rutgers' Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, the estuary has experienced increasing eutrophy as shown by more recent investigations conducted by research scientists at Rutgers and elsewhere. Eutrophication differs from most other human impacts in that it can cause serious system-wide impairment of estuarine resources.

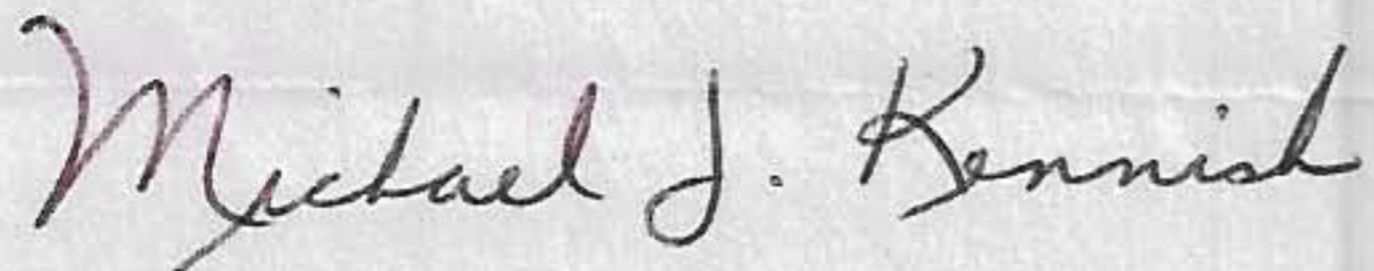
Nutrient enrichment and organic carbon loading in this shallow, lagoon-type estuary have been linked to an array of cascading environmental problems such as increased micro- and macroalgal growth, harmful algal blooms (HABs), high turbidity, altered benthic invertebrate communities, impacted harvestable fisheries, and loss of essential habitat (e.g., seagrass and shellfish beds). The net insidious effect of progressive eutrophication is the potential for the permanent loss of essential habitat and alteration of biotic communities in the system. Because it is shallow, poorly flushed, and bordered by highly developed watershed areas, the estuary is particularly susceptible to the effect of nutrient loading, most notably nitrogen.

Eutrophy of the Barnegat Bay-Little Egg Harbor Estuary has progressively increased during the past two decades primarily because of escalating population growth and associated human activities in the surrounding coastal watershed. The population of Ocean County now consists of more than 562,000 year-round residents. However, this number swells to more than a million individuals during the summer tourist season when the effects of nitrogen enrichment of bay waters are greatest. It is necessary therefore to remediate the effects of a much larger population than the current resident population in the county.

The only viable, long-term solution to eutrophication of the Barnegat Bay-Little Egg Harbor Estuary is the reduction of nitrogen loading from the Barnegat Bay Watershed. The science is clear when it comes to mitigating eutrophication of

waterbodies. It is of paramount importance to cut nitrogen load from surrounding watershed areas. The proposed ordinance limiting the use of nitrogen fertilizer in lawn-care products in the Barnegat Bay Watershed is a major step forward to remediate the estuarine eutrophy that currently plagues this vital estuary. I therefore strongly support and emphatically endorse the implementation of your Nitrogen Lawn Care Ordinance for the Barnegat Bay Watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Kennish". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Michael J. Kennish, Ph.D.
Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
kennish@marine.rutgers.edu