

November 1, 2021

To Whom it May Concern.

My name is Christian Conniff. I am a senior at Saint Augustine High School in San Diego, California. I am also an Eagle Scout with Troop 170. I am eighteen years old, and I have grown up in a fishing family since the day I was born. My parents purchased their sportfishing boat *The Islander* in 2003, the same year I was born. Taking out loans to buy a business, while learning how to raise a child is not a simple task, but my resilient parents have juggled this business, me, my younger sister, and countless other obstacles for nearly two decades. I have personally witnessed them put hours upon hours of work into their business, with the main goal of providing for their family. I can vividly remember waking up as a child to my mother, crunching numbers in the dead of night, and my father, returning home after weeks onboard, tired out of his mind. My parents are the two most hardworking people I have ever met, and my respect for them is infinite.

The logic behind this potential legislation is simply put, absurd. Since the start of Coronavirus, most everyone, including the government, has been urging citizens to 'support small businesses,' yet this inane proposal could be the bankrupting factor for hundreds of family-run businesses, including my parents'. Additionally, the misfocused attention you are placing on my parent's business makes me furious. The environmental concerns you are raising are valid, but oddly enough, the companies most responsible for pollution; the enormous, billion dollar corporations go ignored. I see huge cruise ships, untouched by this potential rule, in the harbor every day, and I ponder the reasoning behind how you selected which ships to regulate. Regardless of whether or not these companies are padding your pockets with lobbying funds, which I cannot speak on, I can confirm that a bureaucrat sitting in a desk chair, wearing a suit that our businesses' tax dollars paid for, has no place speaking on the validity of our practices.

Considering that the engines you want to force us to use have not even been created yet, and the fact that you think we can drop everything and start over, shows that the lawmakers behind this legislation are entirely out of touch with the specific duties and concerns of running a small business. While I consider my parents to be financially responsible, unfortunately they do not have hundreds of thousands of dollars set aside to buy a new boat; not to mention another new boat in 2035, when California will be entirely 'emission-free.'

I apologize if this letter comes across as a personal attack; I hope you can see my passion about this issue, as my entire family's livelihood relies on it. My parents have made an honest living off this business for eighteen years, and I would be devastated to see their hard work snatched away from them like this.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you make the right decision,

Christian M. Conniff