



# TOWN OF FALMOUTH

Office of the Town Manager & Selectmen

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June 19, 2017

Ms. Moira E. Tierney, Chairman  
Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority  
P.O Box 284  
Foot of Railroad Avenue  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Ms. Tierney:

Re: Winter and Spring Operating Schedule

At a meeting on June 19, 2017, the Falmouth Board of Selectmen discussed the Steamship Authority's proposed operating schedule for January 5 to May 10 of 2018 and voted to authorize this letter opposing freight service from Woods Hole beginning before 6:30am. As you know, the residents of Falmouth and the Falmouth Board of Selectmen have repeatedly expressed concern about early morning freight departures and associated traffic for many years. In 1999, the Martha's Vineyard and Falmouth Boards of Selectmen approved a joint resolution requesting that the Steamship Authority: "...change the departure of the first freight boat from Woods Hole to Martha's Vineyard from 6 A.M. to 7 A.M."

More recently, the Steamship Authority and the Board of Selectmen received complaints about early morning freight traffic from Woods Hole residents following publication in August of 2016 of proposed 2017 operating schedules. In January of 2017, 35 Falmouth residents wrote to the Steamship Authority seeking to change the first freight departure from 5:30 AM to 6:30 AM. These residents noted that the noise from the truck traffic begins well before the 5:30 AM and disturbs their sleep.

The Board appreciates the measures the Steamship Authority has already taken to mitigate the impact of Steamship traffic to Woods Hole residents including: signage stating trucks are not allowed on Steamship property before 5:00 AM; letters to freight shippers reminding them of the state anti-idling law; and modifications to the way trucks are staged at the terminal to reduce the use of back up alarms. The Board is also cognizant of the Steamship Authority's obligation to provide adequate transportation to the people of Martha's Vineyard as well as freight transport. Nevertheless, it is the Board's position that a 5:30 AM freight departure from Woods Hole presents an unreasonable burden to our community. We implore you to give serious consideration to changing the first freight departure to 6:30 AM for calendar year 2018 and thereafter.

Respectfully,

Susan L. Moran  
Chairman, Falmouth Board of Selectmen

cc: Elizabeth Gladfelter, Steamship Authority Board Member