Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I am Becky Schneider, program associate at the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is a coalition of over 550 organizations working together to transform the New York Harbor and its waterways into a world class resource for work, play, transit and education.

Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance supports the progressive work that Parks Marina’s division has completed in improving the city’s marina operations, clean boating practices, and more. We are a close partner with this agency and support their efforts to provide low-cost public access, especially in underserved areas of the city. There are shockingly few places to dock a boat in our harbor, especially for recreational or educational purposes. Whole cities, neighborhoods and towns have been disconnected from the water that surrounds them in the metropolitan area.

The MWA Open Waters Initiative is being undertaken to help millions of citizens throughout the metropolitan area gain access to the waterfront through a variety of initiatives including the construction of docks, retrofits to existing structures, and more. Community Eco Docks, floating docks that accommodate all types of vessels, are an exciting part of this initiative that will dramatically increase access opportunities for New York and New Jersey residents between land and water and unlock waterfront regions in historically cut off neighborhoods.
The community of Bay Ridge will be the first to benefit from this joint initiative between the MWA and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Through an extensive community, government, and user input process this past year, the dock was designed and will be constructed next year by the New York City Parks Department at the 69th Street Pier in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn; it will serve as the City’s first Community Eco-Dock.

Again, MWA supports the hard work conducted by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and its Marinas Division to provide improved public access and on-water recreational opportunities for citizens and residents around the harbor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.