

Judith L. Wellington, Ph.D. President and Chief Executive Officer 609.9684102

December 30, 1993

Mr. Richard Wright Chief of Staff Office of the Governor CN 001 125 W. State Street Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Rick:

As you may have heard the Delaware River Port Authority granted to the aquarium \$3.5 million. Many individuals were instrumental in our receiving these funds particularly Governor Florio, Rick Wright and Peter Burke. Please join me in thanking them for their efforts on our behalf.

The Port Authority funds are restricted to capital expenses. Should we choose to dedicate these funds to Phase 2, this \$3.5 million in addition to the half million dollars from the Pew Charitable Trust will mean we have half the funds necessary for the project as currently conceived and estimated.

We will continue to proceed as outlined at the board meeting. Before the project is publicly announced we will study its economic impact; confirm the optimum layout and costs; develop a fundraising strategy for the rest of the funds; and develop plans and cost estimates for future changes to the exhibits and productions. I have just received a letter from Jim Hill informing me that the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Trust has granted us \$125,000 for these feasibility studies. Thanks to Jim Hill for his continued efforts for the aquarium.

The staff is looking forward to completing this stage of the project and moving forward with design, fundraising and construction. These grants from the Port Authority have given this project a much needed shot in the arm.

Have a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Judith L. Wellington, Ph.D.

President & Chief Executive Officer

JLW/crr