ECON 4/3231/66(99) Pt.21 CB1/BC/14/98

Our Tel: 2537 2842 Our Fax: 2523 0030

7 October 1999

Clerk to Bills Committee Legislative Council Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road Central Hong Kong (Attn.: Miss Salumi CHAN)

Fax No. 2869 6794

Dear Miss Chan,

Bill Committee on Shipping and Port Control (Amendment) Bill 1999 Third meeting on 23 September 1999

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 1999. Regarding the Hong Kong & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats Association's submission on the Bill, we would like to respond as follows –

(a) At present, vessels which are 50 metres or less in length are not required to obtain written permission of the Director of Marine before repair or breaking up of vessels are carried out. After consulting the industry, we agree that the present arrangement should continue.

(b) To achieve the above and to put these vessels under more stringent control than before, Clause 8 of the Bill provides that provisions for the control of repair to or breaking up of vessels, cargo handling and marine construction in Part V of the principal Ordinance also apply to vessels which are 50 metres or less in length. In addition, Clause 10 of the Bill provides that such vessels be exempted from the requirement of written permission of the Director of Marine for their repair or breaking up.

Yours sincerely,

(Peter KWOK) for Secretary for Economic Services

c.c. Director of Marine

PK/hc