

Appendix 2

Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State
Department of Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

9 April 2013

Dear Mr Pickles,

Mayor of London's Safeguarded Wharves Review – Final Recommendations to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

I am writing to you as Chair of the London Assembly's Planning Committee to bring to your attention to the potential negative impacts on the environment and economy of the Mayor's proposals to remove protection from some of London's remaining riverside wharves. Once gone, they are gone forever.

London's wharves perform a vital role in London's economy and have the potential to play an even bigger role in the future. However, the Mayor has now submitted recommendations to you for new Safeguarding Directions that would see the loss of nine wharves.

The Assembly's Planning Committee wrote to the Mayor on 11 March 2013 asking him to reconsider these recommendations (**letter attached**) in light of a number of factors including:

- The risk that he has underestimated the future role of river transport, the amount of commercial and industrial waste generated by London and the potential for recycling; and,
- The opportunity to take advantage of the secondary materials economy that is emerging as a result of environmental and resource pressures that could enable the growth of a new economic sector in London;

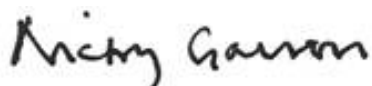
The Government clearly recognises the importance of the sustainable treatment and reuse of waste and secondary aggregates, and the associated economic benefits. This is evident, for example, in the Government's national planning policies for minerals and waste planning, the introduction of an aggregates levy which encourages the use of recycled materials to replace virgin aggregates, the recent joint development of a 'Resource Security Action Plan' by BIS and DEFRA, seeking to make the most of valuable materials, or the on-going work of the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The loss of London's wharves would jeopardise the successful implementation of these and other policies and initiatives.

The strong disparity between land values means that once released from safeguarding, many wharves will succumb to the strong market pressures to convert them into other uses which do not need river access.

In light of the issues raised in the attached letter, the London Assembly Planning Committee requests that you recommend to the Mayor that he reconsiders these proposals. As set out in the attached letter we recommend that you ask the Mayor to go back to the drawing board with a renewed commitment to maintaining safeguards on wharves. Otherwise London and the nation will miss an important opportunity to develop a new and growing source of jobs in London.

Given the important economic and environmental implications for London I have also copied this letter to the Secretaries of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to bring this matter to their attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicky Gavron". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nicky Gavron, AM

Chair, London Assembly Planning Committee

Attachment: Letter to Mayor of London 11 March 2013

Cc:

The Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

The Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP
Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
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