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August 6, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Dear National Park Service,

We are writing to support the application of the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG) to organize activities in the Bronx to restore the Harlem River with support from the National Park Services' River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is a 501c3 organization serving as the voice of nearly 400 organizations with ties to our regional waterways. Together we are working to transform the waters of New York and New Jersey Harbor into clean and accessible places to learn, work and play, with inviting parks, dependable jobs and reliable, eco-friendly transportation for all.

In 2002 MWA, joined the New York City Parks Department and the Harlem Economic Development Corporation to explore how to redesign Harlem River Park, an area that includes the western sea wall along a section of the East River at approximately 135th Street in Manhattan. The success of this nearly completed project is an example of the opportunities that exist along the Bronx side of the East River for improvements in public access, water quality, and habitat.

There is a need for organizations such as the Harlem River Working Group to work to restore the Harlem River and reconnect the waterfront with the residents of the Bronx. We hope that the National Park Service can provide this needed support.

MWA would be able to participate in planning activities and promote opportunities along the East River to our constituency as the Harlem River Working Group becomes established and fully funded.

Please contact me if you have any questions rlewis@waterfrontalliance.org or at 212-935-9831 ext. 296.

Sincerely,

Roland Lewis
President and CEO