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1410 Hayne Road
Memphis, TN 38119
April 17, 2007

██████████
██████████
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Dear ██████████

As a member of Ffor (Friends of our Riverfront) and a retiree who has been in construction and maintenance all my life, I am concerned that the Beale Street Landing Project if constructed as presently envisioned will be a Disaster Waiting to Happen. It will not be structurally sound or sustainable! My primary concerns are the three arms that hold the pontoon dock in place.

I have seen the model and the schematics in the Falls Building Offices of the RDC (Riverfront Development Corporation) and have discussed the project with a senior official of the RDC. The project uses three connected pontoons to form the dock where ships will tie up. Each pontoon will have a single arm (three arms for project total) to hold the dock in place as the river level rises and falls (assumed here to have a range of about 40 feet). These arms will be anchored to a solid base of piles in the river bed.

To explain my concern let me use your arm for discussion. Assume the theoretical pontoons are to your left and let your left shoulder represent the base of piles supporting your arm that extends upward and is attached by a swivel pin through your hand (palm held vertically) into the back side of one pontoon. The pontoon back side is closest to the river bank and opposite to the side where the ships tie up. The other two discussion pontoons would be forward or back of our primary discussion pontoon attached to our left hand. Your arm would be between the pontoons and the bank of the river as you look north. At low water river stage your hand will touch your shoulder with your elbow straight out and with your palm held vertically and theoretically pinned to the discussion pontoon. As the water level rises and the pontoon goes up, your hand will be raised approximately "40 feet" directly above your shoulder until your arm is straight up.

I was told that there will be no cables or piles holding the pontoons in place. Only three approximately 40 foot metal arms, pinned to the pontoons and strong pile bases, will hold the pontoons in place. Can you imagine a ship being blown by a strong westerly wind into the dock and having to rely on only three arms to hold the pontoons in place? Most piers have dozens or even hundreds of relatively short piles driven into the ground to withstand the inadvertent impact force from a ship that misses its hoped-for smooth landing. I was told that piles cannot be used to hold the pontoons in place for the Beale Street Landing because the piles would have to extend more than 40 feet into the air and would be very unsightly at low water level looming high above the pontoon dock. I am not sure how the three joints in each arm will keep the pontoons from drifting a bit up or down the river-harbor. Perhaps they will put some mechanized system on some of the joints! But that would be an

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expensive system to install and to maintain. I may have missed something that will make this project feasible, but so far the details have not been forthcoming - and as you know the devil is in the details.

In my discussions with RDC I asked if there is an existing dock constructed like the proposed Beal Street Landing so I could see how it functioned. I was told that this dock will be the first of its kind. I can certainly see why no similar dock has ever been constructed.

██████████ I appreciate all that you have done for us, and I hope that you will save our taxpayer money by stopping further wasting of dollars on this structurally unsound and unsustainable pontoon dock project.

Sincerely,



Bert Merrill

PS: There are other problems (relatively minor) with this project such as:

- a. Proper maintenance of the arm joints that will be operating under the river water
- b. Keeping the Harbor entrance clear for other boats
- c. Washing off the mud deposits on the "little Parks" at the Landing as the muddy Mississippi River rises and falls.