

May 22, 2006

Dear Broward County BoatU.S. Member,

The Broward County Commission is in the final stages of adopting a Boating Facility Siting Plan. While the intent of this plan is to further protect our manatee population, it would, as currently drafted, severely limit future increases in the number of boat slips, wet and dry boat storage and boat ramp parking spaces in Broward County.

BoatU.S. is working with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida's (MIASF), an 800-member trade organization, to encourage the Broward County Commission to adopt a balanced plan that will both protect manatees and preserve access to our waterways in Broward County.

Since the plan must be approved by July 1st, 2006, your voice needs to be heard now.

Here is how you can help:

1. Sign the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) online petition.

Visit <http://www.miasf.org> and select the "MIASF Position on the Boat Facility Siting Plan" link on the home page. Add your name to the petition that will be sent to Broward County Commissioners to make them aware that their constituents are concerned about this issue. You can also elect to receive e-mail updates on this issue and public hearing notices.

2. Contact Broward County Commissioners. Write a letter to your Commissioner expressing your support for a balanced Plan. (Edit a sample letter by visiting the MIASF web site and selecting the "MIASF Position on the Boat Facility Siting Plan" link from the home page).

3. Attend the public hearing. Most important, the Broward County Commission will have a public hearing regarding the plan at which time you can voice your concerns about the loss of water access and service facilities. Check for dates and location at www.miasf.org.

Get involved in protecting your rights as a boater to access and enjoy Broward County's waterways by supporting a fair Manatee Protection Plan. If you have further questions, you can contact Gordon Connell with the MIASF at (954) 524-2733 or via email at Gordon@miasf.org.

Thank you,
Margaret Podlich, V.P.
BoatU.S. Government Affairs