



April 1, 2008

Miami-Dade Sports Commission - Co-Chair
Larry P. Gautier
Colliers Abood Wood-Fay
6600 North Andrews Avenue, Suite 240
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Dear Mr. Gautier:

It has come to our attention that the Miami-Dade Sports Commission's Facility Development Committee is presently soliciting public input on the need for sports facilities in Miami-Dade County. It is as a rower, coach and the current Southeast Representative on the Board of Directors of US Rowing that I am writing to support Biscayne Bay adjacent to the Miami Marine Stadium as a fantastic rowing venue. I also advocate the repair or replacement of the Stadium so that it may serve as a more efficient Water Sports viewing arena.

I first competed at this venue at the International Regatta in 1968 as a college athlete rowing for Marietta College. Eight years later as a Masters oarsman, I had the privilege of competing for The Miami Rowing Club and won the Championship Singles competition at the prestigious Bi Centennial Regatta held there. In those days, Marine Stadium was a showcase for Rowing and other events that uniquely showcased the natural beauty of Biscayne Bay and the architectural wonders of the Miami skyline. Unfortunately, in recent years the Stadium has fallen into disrepair to the disappointment of many of us in the rowing community. The Facility Development Committee in its report outlining the most critical needs and major opportunities as it relates to sports facilities in Greater Miami should certainly include the repair or replacement of Miami Marine Stadium, and encourage community leadership in both the public and private sectors to work towards doing so.

Major national and regional collegiate and high school rowing events generate a huge economic impact for our region and with proper facilities Miami would attract a number of such events yearly. Miami's unique location as the Gateway to the Americas would also attract new and existing international rowing competitions as well, once a proper venue were constructed.

Please know that we welcome any opportunity to provide information that you and others at the Miami-Dade Sports Commission may find useful. I can be reached at 813-404-6580. My Address is 7301 Canal Blvd. Tampa, Fl 33615. Thank you for serving as Co-chair of the Miami-Dade Sports Commission and for all you do to enhance the quality of life for the residents and visitors of your community.

Sincerely,

Tom Feaster
United States Rowing Association Board of Directors
Southeast Representative

cc: Don Langford, President, United States Rowing Association
Glenn Merry, Executive Director, United States Rowing Association
Mike Sophia, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Sports Commission
Heather Wasek-Kurstin, Assistant Director, Miami-Dade Sports Commission



April 1, 2008

Miami-Dade Sports Commission - Co-Chair
Hon. Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Board of County Commissioners - District 12
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 N.W. First Street, Suite 320
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Commissioner Diaz:

It has come to our attention that the Miami-Dade Sports Commission's Facility Development Committee is presently soliciting public input on the need for sports facilities in Miami-Dade County. It is as a rower, coach and the current Southeast Representative on the Board of Directors of US Rowing that I am writing to support Biscayne Bay adjacent to the Miami Marine Stadium as a fantastic rowing venue. I also advocate the repair or replacement of the Stadium so that it may serve as a more efficient Water Sports viewing arena.

I first competed at this venue at the International Regatta in 1968 as a college athlete rowing for Marietta College. Eight years later as a Masters oarsman, I had the privilege of competing for The Miami Rowing Club and won the Championship Singles competition at the prestigious Bi Centennial Regatta held there. In those days, Marine Stadium was a showcase for Rowing and other events that uniquely showcased the natural beauty of Biscayne Bay and the architectural wonders of the Miami skyline. Unfortunately, in recent years the Stadium has fallen into disrepair to the disappointment of many of us in the rowing community. The Facility Development Committee in its report outlining the most critical needs and major opportunities as it relates to sports facilities in Greater Miami should certainly include the repair or replacement of Miami Marine Stadium, and encourage community leadership in both the public and private sectors to work towards doing so.

Major national and regional collegiate and high school rowing events generate a huge economic impact for our region and with proper facilities Miami would attract a number of such events yearly. Miami's unique location as the Gateway to the Americas would also attract new and existing international rowing competitions as well, once a proper venue were constructed.

Please know that we welcome any opportunity to provide information that you and others at the Miami-Dade Sports Commission may find useful. I can be reached at 813-404-6580. My Address is 7301 Canal Blvd. Tampa, Fl 33615. Thank you for serving as Co-chair of the Miami-Dade Sports Commission and for all you do to enhance the quality of life for the residents and visitors of your community.

Sincerely,

Tom Feaster
United States Rowing Association Board of Directors
Southeast Representative

cc: Don Langford, President, United States Rowing Association
Glenn Merry, Executive Director, United States Rowing Association
Mike Sophia, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Sports Commission
Heather Wasek-Kurstin, Assistant Director, Miami-Dade Sports Commission

The United States Rowing Association

2 Wall Street Princeton, NJ 08540 609-751-0700 Fax 609-924-1578

Member: United States Olympic Committee, Fédération Internationale des Sociétés D'Aviron (FISA)