Example letter to The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez,

Minister of Transportation, that you can adapt and modify.

\* Mail may be sent postage-free to any member of Parliament.

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July 23, 2024

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez,

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Suggested letter:

August 13, 2024

The Honorable Pablo Rodriguez,

Minister of Transportation

**Request to reinstate funding for distress flare disposal collection program**

We are writing to request that Transport Canada please reinstate the funding under the Boating Safety Contribution Program (BSCP) for the distress flare collection and disposal program that was previously administered through the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (Now called CanBoat / Nauti Savoir) across Canada.

There is no other Canada-wide program and there are only a few local disposal options left. As members of the boating industry we are keenly aware of how many boaters are carrying both the pyrotechnic distress flares required by Transport Canada regulations, as well as older flares that are now expired and that are potentially dangerous.

Pyrotechnic distress flares require proper disposal and in recent years, many disposal options through municipal waste management and other government agencies like police or fire departments have now been discontinued. Many people do not now how to dispose of their expired flares and therefore do so inappropriately.

The Transport Canada-funded Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CanBoat) distress flare collection and disposal program has been very successful. It was national in scope in both English and French and has collected over 200,000 of any brand of flare that boaters bring in at a CanBoat flare disposal day event. These events have been staffed by trained CanBoat volunteers and are operated in concert with CIL Explosives who properly handle the actual disposal and fund 40% of the cost of that disposal.

We know that it is dangerous for municipal workers to find these discarded in household garbage. Environmentally, it's very dangerous as well as illegal for individuals to fire flares off unless there is a legitimate emergency.

For the sake of the safety of Canadian boaters nationwide, we ask that you please reinstate the funding for this unique program.

Respectfully,

(Your name)

(your address and phone number if you are willing to do so)