



February 6th, 2020

RE: Support for proposed changes to surfing access at Good Harbor Beach - Cape Ann Surfers Union, February 25th presentation

To the Gloucester City Councilors, % Joanne Senos, City Clerk:

The Surfrider Foundation is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to the enjoyment and protection of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches through a powerful activist network. Our Massachusetts Chapter is active in several coastal issues, including protecting public beach access, advancing smart coastal preservation strategies, advocating for improved water quality, and mitigating plastic marine debris. As a national organization founded in 1984, we comprise over 180 grassroots chapters and youth clubs across the United States.

Our members are not all surfers, but we are universally beach lovers. We work to protect access to the beaches and waves that we love for all environmentally friendly uses. Our members organize beach clean ups, work to prevent plastic pollution, and fight to keep outdoor spaces clean, beautiful, and accessible to all. We are the kind of people you want coming to your community, staying invested in protecting your public spaces, and spending money at your local businesses!

Allowing additional surfing times at Good Harbor will benefit Gloucester and the surrounding community. Bringing ocean recreationalists of all kinds into a town leads to tourist dollars being spent at local businesses and eateries.

The mission of the Cape Ann Surfers Union is to promote a healthy and safe ocean environment for all. Their Good Harbor Beach proposal includes lifeguard discretion at all times. At many area beaches, such as Nahant and Jenness, there are designated surf zones where surfers and swimmers coexist with no problems. We would encourage consideration of a surf zone. When surfing is allowed in the same area as swimming, there are numerous examples of surfers being first on the scene to help swimmers who've been swept out too far or are struggling. In that way, surfers actually serve as an un-official safety patrol at beaches.

In summary, we strongly support increased access for surfers at Good Harbor Beach as proposed by the Cape Ann Surfers Union.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if any details regarding our support would be useful to you. Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jardayna Laurent
Volunteer & 2019 Chair, on behalf of
Surfrider Foundation Massachusetts Chapter