



# HISTORIC TOURS OF AMERICA, INC.®

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September 5, 2013

REF: October 1<sup>st</sup> – Referendum on Cruise Ships

Dear Key Wester:

Each year our companies, the Conch Tour Train, Old Town Trolley and associated companies provide free or heavily discounted transportation services to our community as well as events such as "Day to Remember" for our elders (28 years) and Children's Day at the Park at (Halloween (26 years) and countless donations. Your organization has been the recipient of our help in the past.

We know that the service or event we provide helps you achieve your worthy missions. From organizations that focus on elders, to children, to churches, to VIP guests we are happy to be a part of our community and your ongoing success.

Historic Tours of America® and its associated companies and its 300 employees donate the equivalent of over two hundred thousand dollars in money, goods and services back into our city each year. It is our honor to do so but these donations come from the money we make operating our businesses.

Cruise ships have played a major role in our success year after year. Not only our 300 employees and their families depend on the ships but thousands of other people can also trace part of their pay or profits to the cruise ships which have been part of our economy since 1979. That business is now being threatened by the obsolescence of our entrance channel for the newer ships that can provide more on board amenities and meet higher environmental standards. To make sure this doesn't happen now and for future generations we need to widen a small part of our ships channel close to Key West. We need your organizations support, on

October 1<sup>st</sup>, to “study the project” and find out the best way to do this without harming the environment. This can be done. We have enclosed a comprehensive outline of the issues and procedures, which includes a plan to mitigate any disturbance to the sea bottom.

We are asking you for your help by becoming informed and then writing a letter to the members of your organization asking them for their support. We would also ask you to consider adding your organizations support by agreeing to allow us to publicize that support.

Our community and our company’s ability to continue to be generous and successful and continue to employ its workers and help your organization is dependent on adapting to the fact that the new ships, that are longer and wider and superior environmentally, cannot now, enter our harbor.

While this issue is particularly important to our success it will affect our entire Key West economy and many, many working people for years to come.

If the study says that any and all impact to the environment cannot be mitigated and even improve our eco system we too will come out against the wider channel entrance to Key West.

Historic Tours of America® and our families need your help on this issue! In the end this study will help us to continue to help you and our community.

Sincerely,



Ed Swift, III, President

Chris Belland, CEO

Thank you for your active support and your vote on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

P.S. If your organization cannot send a letter could someone on your board write a letter of support? Please send us a copy. Thanks.