

September 28, 2010

Molly Feldstein and Mani Ghiasi

Dear Senator Feinstein,

We are in the eleventh grade at University High School in San Francisco. At the moment, our class is studying the history of the United States specifically the time period around the Revolution. When going over the U.S. Constitution, our teacher Jesse Berrett informed us of Article I, Section 8: Letters of Marque and Reprisal. We found the prospect of becoming a privateer particularly intriguing. As an extra – credit assignment, we decided to follow up on this clause of the Constitution. Through research, we discovered that in order to apply for the Letter of Marque and Reprisal, we must attach a certain amount of information regarding our vessel.

Name: Molly Feldstein and Mani Ghiasi

Description: Whitehall 17' Expedition (for sailing and rowing)

Tonnage and Force of the Vessel: 800 lbs deadweight (1-5 persons), Mercury 5 Horsepower Outboard Motor

Name and Residence of Owner: Kamran Ghiasi 7 West Shore Road Belvedere, CA 94920

Intended Number of Crew: 2

Our desire to become Privateers does not actually entail seizing any foreign or domestic property. We simply think that it would be an interesting expression of the U.S. Constitution and a possible application to modern times. Although the two of us understand that the clause was created during times when our Navy was not as strong as it is today, our intentions are mostly comical; a 17' rowboat is a threat to nobody but ourselves. To revive the title of Privateer and serve our Nation as seafarers would be an honorable accomplishment. If we receive this Letter of Marque and Reprisal, the two of us promise to adhere to our Nation's principles, laws, and morals. We ask that you please consider this request seriously and thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read it.

Sincerely,

Molly Feldstein and Mani Ghiasi