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To whom it may concern,

This letter is to affirm that Mystic Aquarium has the facility, staffing, and other resources to provide for the highest standards of care for its animal collection, including beluga whales, and the expertise and track record to conduct transport of animals, including belugas, to and from the facility. All activities at Mystic Aquarium comply with the Animal Welfare Act.

Mystic Aquarium has a strong program of preventative medicine that ensures all animals, including belugas, are healthy and thriving. The Aquarium employs a large team of experienced trainers to provide for the daily husbandry care of the belugas, and a team of four veterinarians who can respond to any medical issues with immediacy. Mystic Aquarium has a state-of-the-art veterinary hospital and portable diagnostic equipment (ultrasound, radiograph, endoscopy, etc.) that can be brought to the exhibit for pool-side diagnostics. The use of behavioral conditioning plays a vital role in the care of belugas at Mystic Aquarium and greatly supports our ability to deliver high quality animal care and provide for optimal welfare. The goal of the training program is to train the animals to participate in their own healthcare and research on a voluntary basis, as well as providing mental stimulation and enrichment for the animals. The Arctic Coast Habitat where the belugas reside is a 750,000 gallon, outdoor, closed system designed specifically for the research, care, and display of belugas. It is designed with a naturalistic style and is the largest outdoor beluga habitat in the United States. Mystic Aquarium animal habitats and animal diets meet or exceed the requirements established by the Animal Welfare Act. This is demonstrated by a track record of APHIS inspections identifying no noncompliant items on their unannounced annual site visit inspections. Further, Mystic Aquarium is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Associations (AMMPA), the International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA), and American Humane Association Humane Conservation.

Mystic Aquarium has a longstanding track record of excellence in caring for beluga whales, beginning in 1975 and continuing to present day. Our husbandry, veterinary, and transport programs are of the highest caliber and consistently ensure maximal health and well-being of our belugas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison D. Tuttle, DVM, Dipl. ACZM".

Allison D. Tuttle, DVM, Diplomate ACZM  
Sr. Vice President of Zoological Operations