

SAMPLE LETTER ONE:

Subject: No to LightHouse Point Development on Eleuthera

To Dr. The Hon. Hubert Alexander Minnis:

Dear Sir:

I have become aware of an effort by Disney to purchase and develop a large tract of land immediately surrounding the very point of Lighthouse point, an area of land that I have enjoyed immensely. I would like to join in the growing movement against this form of development and register my opinion as a concerned citizen, not of the Bahamas, but of the world, one who has visited the island many times. This is a tract of land of unparalleled natural beauty in my experience as a traveller to many areas of the world. Any development here would be a gross miscarriage of your responsibility as the head of the great nation of the Bahamas.

I urge you to stand for the natural heritage of your people and your country. The claims of Disney in regards to their environmental stewardship have been grossly overstated, proven in other cruise ports where they have manipulated and carved the land to suit their needs, resulting in an unreal, almost unrecognizably profane caricature of what God had created in the first place. I am sure you are aware of the story of Esau and Jacob. Esau sold his birthright, which Esau held in so low esteem as to sell it for a bowl of stew. Esau had no understanding for what significance his birthright held, had no vision and could not see beyond the immediacy of his hunger pains. Well, Dr. Minnis, the 150 jobs that Disney estimates (with no promises of all of them going to locals, which would be unlikely) would be the financial gain that would amount to the bowl of stew in this analogy. Do NOT sell your country's birthright for a bowl of stew. Do NOT be Esau and allow your people to lose their natural and cultural heritage over the immediate gains of a few jobs. Do not let your people suffer for lack of vision.

I urge you, no, I beg you to consider the proposals by One Eleuthera if development absolutely must be considered. It would undoubtedly create

many jobs at a slower, steadier pace that would be much more sustainable and would be managed by Eleutherans for Eleutherans. As visitors, we are aware of how non-Bahamians have started development and then abandoned the development, sometimes, many times before it even gets off the ground. This has shown itself to be true even in Disney's history with the Bakers Bay development in the Abaco's and the environmental damage that will forever scar that beautiful area.

Your opportunity to write the next chapter of this stunningly serene locale awaits. At the end of your life, do not let the memory of what you didn't do, what you didn't stand up for point at you, look you in the eye and say, "thou art the man". Be the one who would stand in the breach for your brethren, your kin and your country. Let your name stand against this carnage. We will be there shoulder to shoulder with you.

Yours truly

SAMPLE LETTER TWO:

Subject: No to Lighthouse Point Development - Eleuthera

To Dr. The Hon. Hubert Alexander Minnis:

Dear Sir:

This letter is to address my concerns regarding the potential for a Disney development (including cruise port) in the area of Lighthouse Point, Eleuthera. I pray that I can communicate my experience at this most awe inspiring point of land with a compelling relevancy that permits you licence into my mind, my thoughts and indeed my heart. Here is a piece of land that is touched by God, simply put. I need not consider myself unique, as there are a multitude of people with the same expression of amazement and wonder.

Let us consider the bare facts of the matter. It is some 700 acres that Disney is interested in. It's just a chunk of land, isn't it? 150 jobs to be had. The Bahamas has over 700 islands, what's 700 acres to give up to gain some good employment for the people of an island needing jobs? Here's

what I have found out at that point of land, and here's what many people have found. I have found breath. I have found breath to breathe new life into an old body. I have found beauty to restore my soul, and I have found tranquility to unshackle the burden, the weight of the troubles of this world. If it were just myself that experiences these or similar feelings, I would be the one to stand aside and say, "let the bulldozers come, let the dredgers destroy, let the maulers of the earth and the vulgar adornments of tourism be erected". But, it's not just me that this area speaks to. It's thousands of people that feel exactly the same. If it was just land, well, you sir and the Bahamian people are custodians and proud guardians of untold numbers of serene and quiet vistas and gorgeous blue waters and sunkissed lands. These emotions, these feelings don't just happen everywhere, and this is why there is such a passionate outcry against this development. It would be sacrilegious to mine the beauty from this wondrous area to make way for a Disney playground, with equal measure of disastrous effects on the coral of the seas and coppice of the land. For what sir, does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his soul? I have been to many places in this world of ours, but I cannot say that I've been to another Lighthouse point in both stunning beauty and soulful impact.

Do not let this challenge go by unanswered. Be not mute to the shearers tent, where your prized wool is shorn from you while you say nothing.

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