Boston February 19th 1839.

Sir,

The object of my addressing you at this time is to lend my feeble aid, through your department, to induce Congress not to take any decisive steps on that part of Lieut. Carpenter's Report, which goes to reduce the Lights in Boston bay & other alterations, until farther information & until the experienced Navigators on this part of the Coast, Pilots & Ship Owners, can have an opportunity of expressing their opinion. With the experience of fifty years in navigating Boston bay, I give my opinion with some confidence.

Long island head Light, Boston harbour, is only second in importance to Boston Light house, it wants to be seen at a distance in stormy weather, which can only be done, but by having a great Light in it, it is the only guide by which Vessels can enter the harbour in the night through Long island Sound & more than 7000 enter through the Channel annually & is now the only sure mark for avoiding the dangerous sunken rocks of Cohasset which lay 9 Miles without Boston Light & 12 Miles from this Light, this Light was fitted up in 1819 with 8 Lamps, 9 inch Reflectors, a few years since the Boston Marine Society petitioned your department that the Light might be increased, it was so ordered by you & 10 Lamps with 14 inch Reflectors were put in, which has given satisfaction to Navigators & Pilots, reduce this Light to 6 Lamps & take off the Re-flectors as recommended in the Report, & you reduce the Light to one twenty fourth part of what it now is & wholly destroy its utility.

Plymouth Lights,

the report remarks that Plymouth Lights among the most

important have but 6 Lamps each, those old Lanterns are so small that I could only put in 6 Lamps with small Reflectors when they were fitted up, had the Lanterns been of a sufficient size they would have been fitted with 10 Lamps & 14 inch Reflectors, those Towers are wood & decayed & must be rebuilt, the report recommends that one Tower 65 feet high be built in place of the two, (the Land is 100 feet high) there have been two Lights here for 50 years & I never before heard of their being taken for any other Light in Boston bay, they cannot be, to alter the position of those Lights would derange the whole system by which the Numerous Lights in Boston bay are designated and which every Navigator is now acquainted with.

Long point Provincetown.

Provincetown is the only harbour for Ships of War & Merchant Ships in Boston bay, South of Boston, a Light ought to be kept there that can be seen at a distance in all weather, the Light as it is now Lighted is a good one, reduce it as recommended in the report & you make a fair weather Light of one that ought to be seen in all weathers.

Billingsgate island Light requires to be seen at a distance in stormy weather to avoid a Shoal which lays off several miles, one object of this Light was to enable Ships that drove into Barnstable in hard northerly Gales to make safe anchorage, which has saved many Lives & much Property, a few years since, two Lamps were added to this Light & 14 inch Reflectors in lieu of the small ones, the report recommends a reduction of the Lamps.

Nauset, three Light were Erected last Summer & appear to give satisfaction to all Navigators, any alteration in them would be much regretted by those interested in Navigation.

I will not trouble you with any further remarks on the report at this time as the only object is, that you may induce Congress to defer ordering those deductions & alterations in the Light to in Boston bay, until a more thorough investigation of their Consequences & give the Ship Owners & experienced Navigators an opportunity of expressing their opinion, had Lieut. Carpenter's time permitted him to have spent two years, instead of two Summer weeks in examining the Lights in Boston bay, I think his report would have been different.

~~Not one year since Complaints from a Quarter represented~~ the Light houses on our Coast to be deficient in Light, Congress listened to the Complaint, Voted Money to try Experiments to make more Light, now the report from a Respectable Navy Officer selected by Government is, that there is too much Light in our Light houses, recommends a reduction of Lamps in nearly all in his district [illegible] houses.

Light

I have the honor to be Sr
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

Winslow Lewis

In behalf of the
Navigators of Boston bay.

Stephen Pleasonton Esqr.
Fifth Auditor & Acting
Commissioner of the Revenue.
Washington.

Note - two Copies sent to Congress