



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

July 10, 2014

Hanifa Washington
Amistad America Inc.
60 Connolly Parkway
Building 12, Suite 208
Hamden, CT 06518

Dear Ms. Washington:


It was reported this week that Amistad America does not intend to bring the Freedom Schooner Amistad to Sailfest 2014 in New London this coming weekend. I believe it is wholly unacceptable for Amistad America to break its commitment to a festival that brings hundreds of thousands of people to Southeastern Connecticut. I write to strongly urge you to reconsider this decision, and to make any and all necessary plans to send the Amistad to New London.

Connecticut played a central role in the story of the Amistad and the events of 1839. Today, the goals of Amistad America – namely, to address the societal issues of racism and intolerance through an exploration of our history – are admirable and important. For these reasons, it is appropriate that the State of Connecticut would support efforts to share the Amistad and its story with our residents.

However, it is equally important that Amistad America reciprocate that support by making the schooner available to Connecticut residents and the public at large. Ensuring that the ship is able to attend Sailfest should be among the most basic annual fulfillments of that promise. Failure to bring the Amistad to New London would force me to reconsider support of additional state funding when negotiating future budgets with the Connecticut General Assembly.

There may be specific issues at play which you believe prohibit the Amistad from coming to New London. However, I fail to believe any problems exist which could not have been raised in a more public manner months ago, and that a more thorough and cooperative effort might have been undertaken to ensure the Amistad's participation.

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor