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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMKirk R Bryson
5416 Grande Palm Circle
Delray Beach, FL 33484

November 12, 2002

Bryant L. VanBrakle,
Secretary Federal Maritime Commission
800 N. Capitol St. NW, Room 1046
Washington, DC 20573-0001

Dear Secretary,

An article which appeared in the Business Section of The South Florida Sun-Sentinel, dated November 11, 2002, addressed the short comings of the Bankruptcy Court and the Cruise Lines involving reimbursement of deposits to passengers.

This article, written by Tom Stieghorst, specifically mentioned New Commodore Cruise Lines, among others and briefly touched on a proposed remedy to rectify this injustice. (copy attached)

Personally, I think the proposal is a good one and needs to be implemented soon. It will certainly protect many in the future.

Unfortunately, for my wife and I, it would have had no effect on our claim filed in Bankruptcy Court back in 2000 because Crown Dynasty, operated by Commodore Cruise Lines refused to let us put the deposits on a credit card. They specifically insisted we pay by check, thereby stripping us of any chance of recovering the deposits from the credit card company once it became known they filed for bankruptcy.

They're holding back seven hundred and fifty one dollars of our money. I wrote several Certified Letters to the CEO, Jeffrey I. Binder, The first immediately after I learned they were discontinuing service, and the latest, last month. The Letters were never answered or acknowledged in any way other than the signed green receipt cards I received. Unethical behavior for someone in his position.

I contacted the Federal Maritime Commission but was told that since Commodore operated Crown Dynasty out of Aruba rather than the United States, they had no jurisdiction in the matter.

The Bankruptcy Court where we filed our claim two years ago now tells us we should get a lawyer and go after Commodore ourselves, A fools errand to be sure.

This new proposal needs to include in it a stipulation that makes it against the law for any cruise line to refuse legitimate credit cards. What Commodore did to us is inexcusable. I don't know how they can be allowed to get away with this.

Please accept my apologizes for this intrusion into your valuable time but we have exhausted all avenues we can think of in attempting to recover this money. I just thought that perhaps you might know of something we missed-We would appreciate any help at all.

Sincerely

Kirk R. Bryson

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