

25-10606

My name is Kaitlyn, and I am 13 years old and live in Florida. I am writing to you to share how much Marineland Dolphin Adventure means to me and why it should be protected instead of closed for something that could never compare to how much it means .

There are so many firsts at Marineland since it opened as Marine studios in 1938: first oceanarium, first trained dolphin, first dolphin birth & oldest dolphin in captivity who was named nellie, and the first trained dolphin show. My first was meeting by far one of the sweetest dolphins you could ever meet. Her name was Dazzle and Marineland has inspired me to want to have a career in that field ever since that day in 2021. I continue to see her and the 17 other dolphins living there who are so different in their own personalities and distinctive remarks that just makes every time you visit so unique and special every time you go. For example, Zac is one of the dolphins there and has the cutest rostrum that curves up and makes him recognizable very easily, or you can always find Shaka by her freckles all over her belly with her basketball bobbing it up and down underwater and sometimes throwing it out for guests walking by to throw back in! Or Toco likes peeking up at the windows to see what guests are doing or what trainer is coming to interact with her next. All 17 dolphins, all with things that make them different and more to love.

Marineland also has family lines that go back generations of previous dolphins to this day. For example, Betty who is estimated to be 55 is one of the gentlest and kindest dolphins and is the mom of Dazzle, who is the mom of Casique. Sandy and Zac are the parents of Capri, who is Soleil's aunt. Lightning is the dad of Miramar and Sunny is the dad of Surge and Oli . Those are just some of the current family lines that reside there and closing Marineland will do nothing but separate them from the place that is their home.

Like I said previously Marineland has inspired me and so many others and since I can't name all the memories I have had there I will mentioned one of the most meaningful ones to me. One of the best is when I got to do my first dolphin show with Niele and Miramar this year and hopefully did a good job!! I wish there was a way send in all my pictures and videos from all my experiences there over the years so you could see all the memories I have made! Marineland is like no other place out there, Please don't get rid of Marineland. Being small and personal makes it so much better and there is no way anyplace can replace that. The last time I visited was the 26th of this month, one day before today when the hearing was supposed to take place. I had the time of my life, but this was also one of the saddest days for me just knowing that this may be the last time I would see them ever.

Nothing compares to Marineland and whatever takes its place and gets built there will just be a reminder of what it used to be. Marineland is a historical landmark that is on the state registry with a history that means too much to Florida (and the people) to be removed.



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Case 25-10606-LSS Doc 6 Filed 10/31/25 Page 2 of 3

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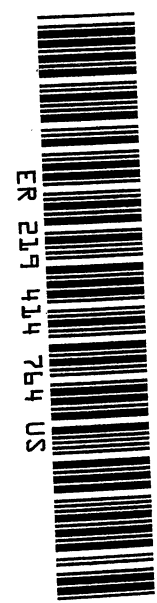
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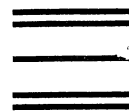
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