

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 28, 2022

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
and Related Agencies

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill as well as any related off-cycle appropriations legislation, we urge you to provide strong funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) Small Shipyard Grant Program. We applaud your commitment to this program that helps modernize the country's small shipyards and repair facilities, while spurring American manufacturing and supporting local economies.

Small shipyards on our nation's coasts and inland waterways are often considered the lifeblood of the maritime community. Across the nation, small shipyards build and maintain more than 40,000 commercial workboats in the U.S. flag fleet. Small shipyards maintain the workboat fleet to ensure maritime transport remains one of the safest and most energy-efficient forms of transportation for both passengers and products. In this way, small shipyards are essential in maintaining commerce in the United States and throughout the world. Small shipyards also build and maintain vessels critical to transportation safety, including Coast Guard ships, dredges, icebreakers, research and military vessels, as well as fire and rescue boats. The program helps ensure America's shipbuilding industry remains strong, all while supporting military shipbuilding.

During this time of American innovation in the maritime industry, new technologies are being rolled out for vessel power and fuel solutions, as well as other specialized shipboard equipment. These technologies require facilities and a shipyard workforce that can efficiently install, maintain and repair this new equipment.

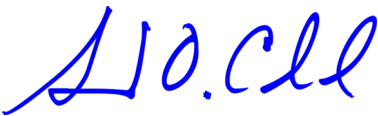
The Small Shipyard Grant Program generates incentives for small shipyards to modernize and improve their facilities as well as make capital improvements to upgrade equipment and processes that make them more efficient and competitive in the global marketplace. The grants fund a variety of projects including infrastructure improvements, equipment upgrades, repairs and reconfigurations. Grants also may be used to support employee training programs to promote technical skills, increasing workforce efficiency and productivity. This program feature is particularly valuable in light of today's workforce development needs throughout the shipyard industrial base.

Additionally, small shipyard grants support American manufacturers and workers who build shipyard equipment. Since stringent domestic sourcing requirements are applied to grant awards, the program fosters sales of American-made industrial equipment and well-paying jobs.

Competition for these grants shows a continued strong demand for Small Shipyard Grant Program funding. In Fiscal Year 2021, MARAD received nearly 120 applications requesting approximately \$100 million for the nearly \$20 million in available funds. It is clear that despite the significant economic challenges of the previous two years, many small shipyards would move forward with modernization projects, with the federal government as a partner, if strong funding for the grant program is made available in Fiscal Year 2023.

Strong funding for the Small Shipyard Grant Program is a win for America's small shipyards, equipment manufacturers, the workboat fleet and jobs in all of these industries. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress
Chair, Subcommittee on
Coast Guard and Maritime
Transportation



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



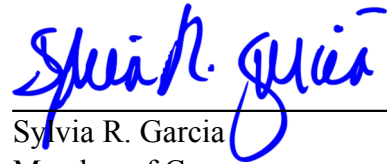
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



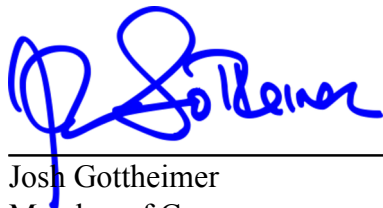
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Bill Johnson
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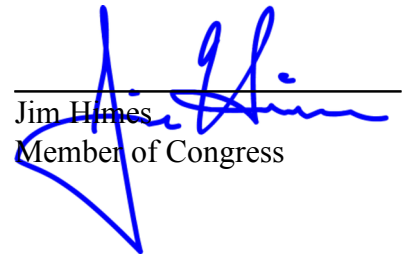
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