

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2022

Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Collins:

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, 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 cutters, 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.

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. 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. Grants may be used to support employee training programs to promote technical skills. 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. Because Buy American provisions are applied to grant awards, the program fosters American-made industrial equipment and well-paying jobs.

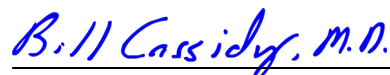
Competition for these grants shows a continued strong demand for Small Shipyard Grant Program funding. It is clear that many small shipyards would move forward with modernization projects, with the federal government as a partner, if additional funding for the grant program is made available in Fiscal 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,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



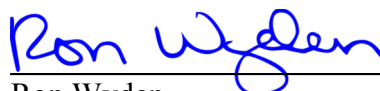
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



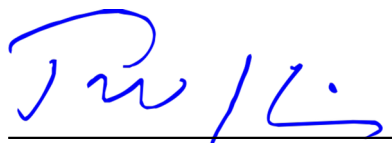
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



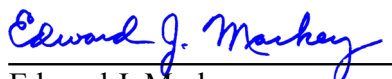
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United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
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Robert Menendez
United States Senator



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Dan Sullivan
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