

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking
Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ranking
Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murray, Ranking Member Collins, Chairman Schatz, and Ranking
Member Hyde-Smith:

We are writing to request that you fund the Maritime Security Program (MSP) at the authorized level in the FY 2025 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Bill.

MSP is a vital component of our military strategic sealift and global response capability. It is designed to ensure that the United States has U.S.-flag commercial sealift capability and trained U.S. citizen merchant mariners available in times of war or national emergencies. MSP also ensures that the U.S. can provide our troops overseas with the supplies and equipment they need to do their jobs on behalf of our nation.

MSP is a cost-effective public-private partnership between the U.S. government and the U.S.-flag shipping industry. The program uses existing U.S. maritime private-sector capabilities at a fraction of the cost of what it would require of the federal government. MSP contractors, who continuously develop and maintain modern logistics systems, are able to provide enhanced vessel capacity and global intermodal transportation systems to the Department of Defense. The cost to the federal government of replicating the vessels and intermodal system is estimated to be at least \$65 billion.

Without a viable U.S.-flag commercial fleet and the American merchant mariners this fleet supports, the United States would be unable to deploy military forces on a global scale and deliver the supplies and equipment American troops need to do their job on behalf of the American people.

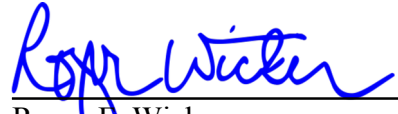
We ask that you continue to support this highly efficient and low-cost public-private partnership at the authorized level as you consider funding levels for FY 2025 in your subcommittee's appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

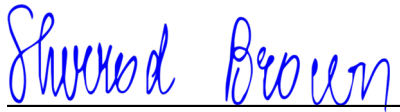
Sincerely,



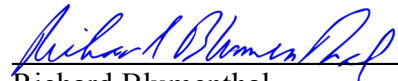
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



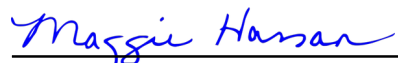
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



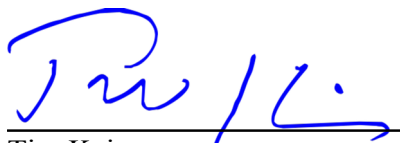
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



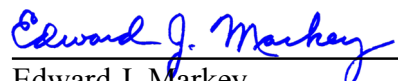
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



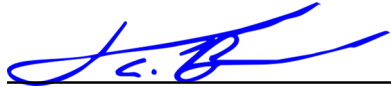
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



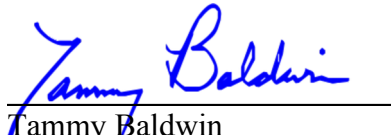
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



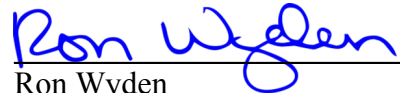
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



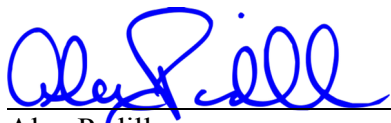
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



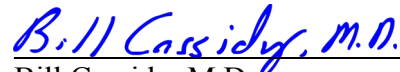
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



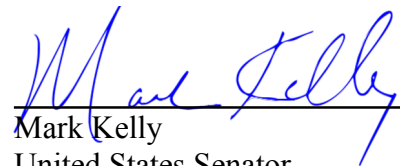
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator