

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jefferies, and Leader Schumer,

As negotiations proceed on the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2027*, we write to share our strong support for the inclusion of the bipartisan, bicameral *Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security Act of 2025*, or the *SHIPS for America Act of 2025*. As supporters of this legislation, we commend the inclusion of provisions of the *SHIPS for America Act of 2025* in Title XXXVI of the House-passed NDAA. The inclusion of these provisions is a necessary start for revitalizing the U.S. maritime industry. We also strongly support additional consideration of *SHIPS for America Act* provisions that were not included in the House-passed NDAA.

Strengthening the U.S. maritime industry is critical to ensure our country's economic and national security. China, Korea and Japan build over 90% of the world's ships by tonnage, while the United States builds less than 1%.¹ In international commerce there are currently fewer than 100 U.S.-flagged ships while it is estimated that China has more than 5,500.² Investments in U.S. commercial shipping, shipyards, and workforce are needed to both eliminate our dependence on foreign adversaries like China and enhance our economic and national security.

The *SHIPS for America Act* aims to close this gap and boost the U.S. maritime industry by establishing national oversight and long-term U.S. maritime policy, making U.S.-flagged vessels

¹ UN Trade & Development, Data Hub, Maritime and other transport, <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/insights/theme/108>.

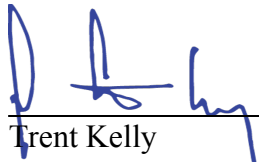
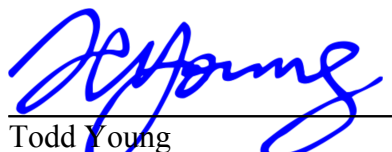
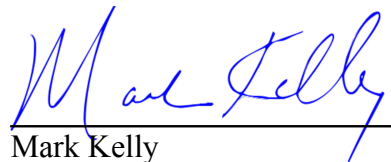
² U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, U.S.-flag fleet dashboard, <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/data-reports/us-flag-fleet-dashboard>; and, Dredge Wire, "China dominates with 5,500 ships while America has under 100 – but Trump's fighting back," February 25, 2026, <https://dredgewire.com/china-dominates-with-5500-ships-while-america-has-under-100-but-trumps-fighting-back/>.

commercially competitive in international commerce, rebuilding the U.S. shipyard industrial base, and expanding and strengthening mariner and shipyard worker recruitment, training, and retention. Especially should the United States enter a prolonged conflict, a robust Merchant Marine, outfitted with U.S. shipping vessels manned by American mariners, would be critical for addressing any potential logistical challenges associated with the transportation of supplies. It is not just us that want to see America become a competitor in the maritime industry. Key stakeholders across this industry, including commercial carriers, maritime unions and shipping associations, as well as this administration agree that federal action is needed to bring life back to the U.S. shipbuilding and commercial maritime industry.³

The inclusion of provisions of the *SHIPS for America Act* in H.R. 8800 was agreed to unanimously in the United States House of Representatives and takes a necessary first step to boosting American shipbuilding. Now, we ask that these provisions be retained and strengthened in the final *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027*.

We appreciate your attention to this important national and economic security issue.

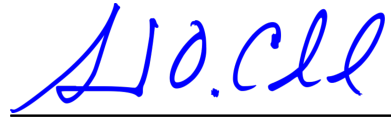
Sincerely,


Trent Kelly
Member of Congress
John Garamendi
Member of Congress
Todd Young
United States Senator
Mark Kelly
United States Senator

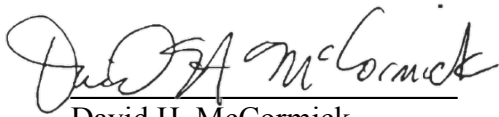
³ List of U.S. stakeholders supporting the *SHIPS for America Act*, <https://www.young.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/The-USA-Maritime-coalition-supports-the-SHIPS-for-America-Act-and-has-been-honored-to-work-with-Senators-Kelly-and-Young.pdf>; and, The White House, “Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Restores America’s Maritime Dominance,” April 9, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/04/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-restores-americas-maritime-dominance/>.



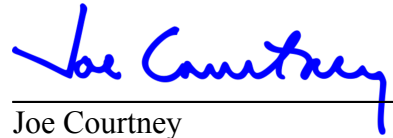
Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



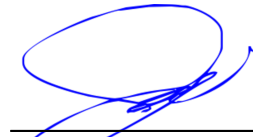
David H. McCormick
United States Senator



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Jon Husted
United States Senator



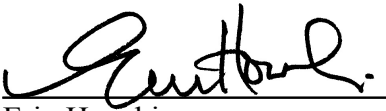
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



John Curtis
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



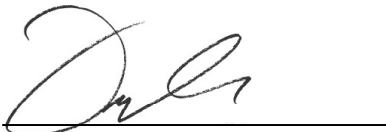
Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



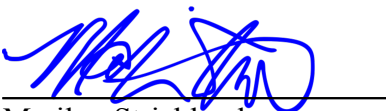
Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



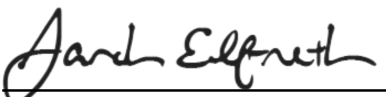
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



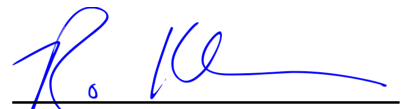
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Mark B. Messmer
Member of Congress



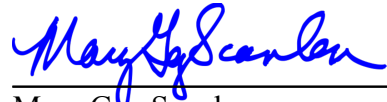
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



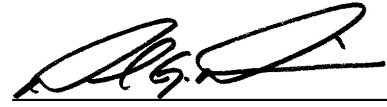
Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



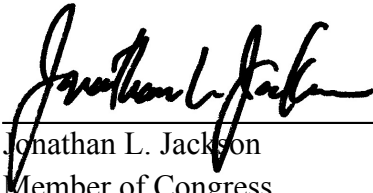
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



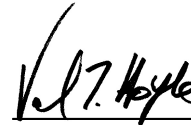
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



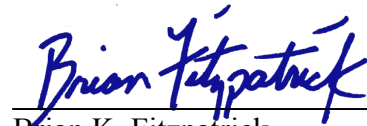
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



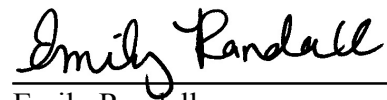
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



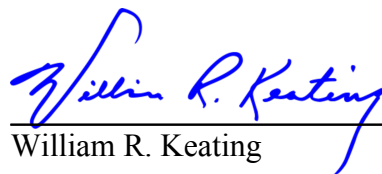
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



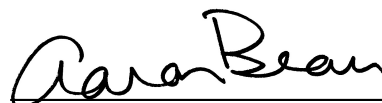
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



John J. McGuire III
Member of Congress



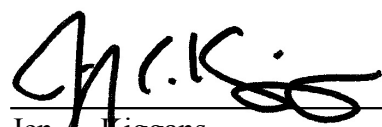
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



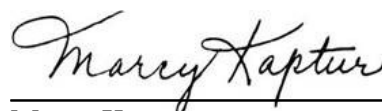
Tim Moore
Member of Congress



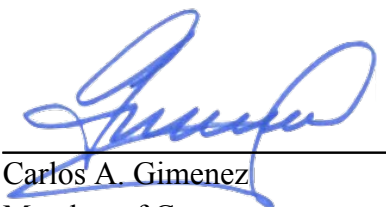
Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



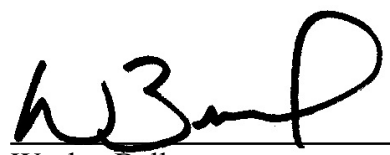
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



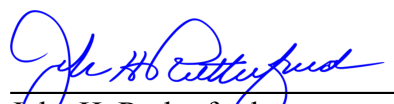
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



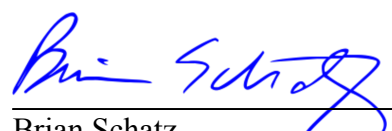
John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



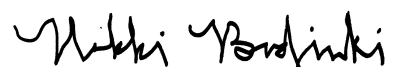
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



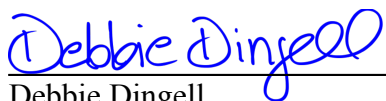
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Randy Fine
Member of Congress



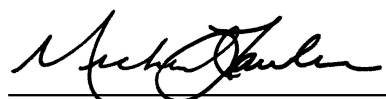
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



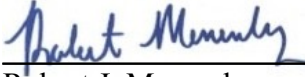
Andy Kim
United States Senator



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



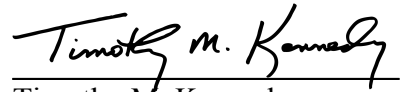
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



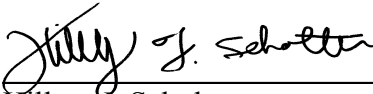
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



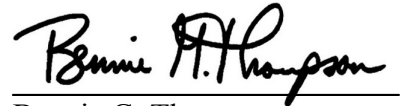
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



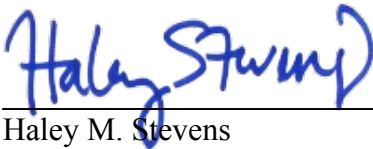
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



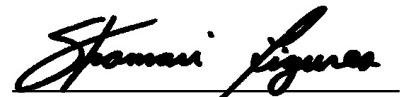
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
Member of Congress



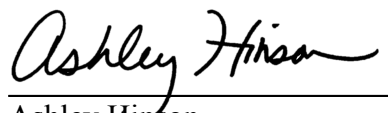
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



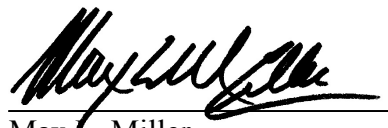
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



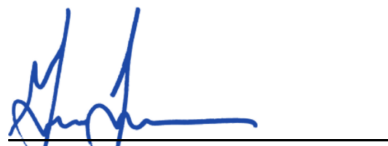
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



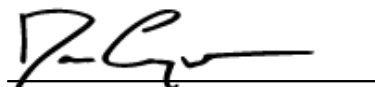
Max C. Miller
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



Derek Schmidt
Member of Congress



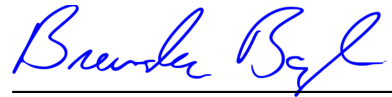
Michael A. Rulli
Member of Congress



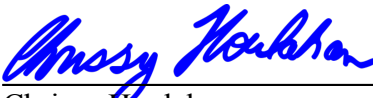
James R. Baird, PhD
Member of Congress



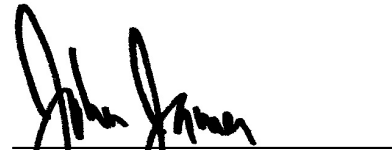
Addison P. McDowell
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



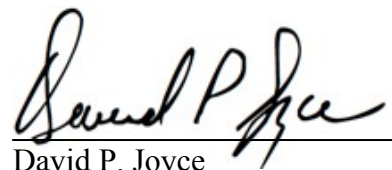
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



John James
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



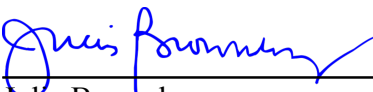
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Chairman
House Select Committee on
China



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



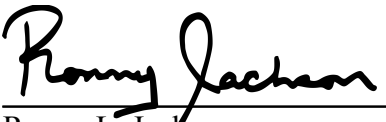
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



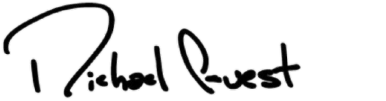
Jefferson Shreve
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Mike Rogers, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Ted Cruz, Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science and
Transportation Committee