C. James Patti
Chairman

R. Christian Johnsen
Secretary-Treasurer

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the undersigned United States-flag shipping companies, American maritime labor organizations and related maritime associations belonging to the USA Maritime Coalition, we are writing to convey our support for the nomination of Peter Buttigieg to be Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation.

The challenges facing United States-flag shipping companies are significant, ranging from the impact of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic on our ability to support America's economic and military security to the increasing threat posed by the aggressive competition from the People's Republic of China as it expands its maritime presence throughout the world. These challenges require immediate and meaningful responses from our government and call for a Secretary of Transportation who will reflect President Biden's position that the "U.S.-flag merchant marine and the men and women who operate U.S.-flag ships are crucial to America's national security, our international trade relationships, and economic development."

We urge your Committee to move favorably on his nomination and we call on the Senate to quickly confirm Mayor Pete Buttigieg's nomination as Secretary of Transportation.

Respectfully submitted,

American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier, LLC
American President Lines LLC
Liberty Maritime Corporation
Maersk Line, Limited
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Maritime Institute (MIRAID)
Sailors Union of the Pacific

Bold Ocean LLC
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots
Seafarers International Union
Transportation Institute
U.S. Ocean
U.S. Shipping Corp
Waterman Logistics, Inc.

American Maritime Congress * American Maritime Officers * American Maritime Officers Service * American President Lines* American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier LLC * Bold Ocean, Inc.* Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC * International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots * Keystone Shipping Company* Liberty Maritime Corporation * Maersk Line, Limited * Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association * Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development * Sailors' Union of the Pacific * Seafarers International Union * Transportation Institute* US Ocean, LLC* U.S. Shipping, Inc* Waterman Logistics*