



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



April 30, 2025

Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

The Lake Carriers' Association strongly supports the investment in the U.S. Coast Guard included in the Budget Reconciliation package, specifically the funding included for the domestic icebreaking mission on the Great Lakes which protects our extensive northern maritime border and keeps commerce moving.

Since 1880, the Lake Carriers' Association has represented the U.S.-flag Great Lakes fleet, which today can move more than 90 million tons of cargos annually that are the foundation of American industry, infrastructure, and energy: iron ore, stone, coal, cement, and other dry bulk materials such as grain, salt, and sand. Our members depend on a healthy and robust Great Lakes Navigation System, especially during the winter months when 20 percent of our vital cargo must reach manufacturing facilities in the Midwest.

Coast Guard domestic icebreaking funding is critical to North American manufacturing and our national security. With only one heavy icebreaker and six smaller icebreaking tugs which are over 40-years old, the Great Lakes need these critical assets to be reliable and capable of assisting U.S. vessels through ice covered waters safely and efficiently. They are also the only law enforcement platforms on either side of the border capable of operating in the ice. We are pleased that the committee, through your leadership, has recognized the importance of our northern border's security through investment in the domestic icebreaking mission.

Sincerely,

James H. I. Weakley
President