Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

April 27, 2025

Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the Shipbuilders Council of America and the American Waterways Operators, we write this letter in support of the generational investment proposed for the Coast Guard that your committee included in the Budget Reconciliation package. Your commitment to ensuring the readiness, safety, and modernization of our maritime service is both deeply appreciated and critically important.

The proposed funding by your committee is a vital step toward strengthening the Coast Guard's ability to execute its broad mission set, ranging from border security, search and rescue operations and maritime law enforcement, to port security and Arctic presence. These investments provide essential support for aging infrastructure, fleet modernization, and technological upgrades, all of which are key to maintaining a resilient and responsive Coast Guard. These investments not only enhance national security but also support thousands of American jobs through the maritime industrial base and shipbuilding sector.

The Coast Guard also plays a key regulatory and safety role for the entire U.S. maritime transportation system, including as it relates to the Jones Act construction and ownership requirements. By supporting safe navigation, enforcing vessel standards, and facilitating maritime commerce, the service ensures that goods move efficiently through our ports and inland waterways.

Thank you again for your leadership and support of the men and women of the United States Coast Guard, and the domestic maritime industry. Your leadership plays a vital role in ensuring our nation's maritime safety, economic vitality, and national security.

Sincerely,

Matthew Paxton
President
Shipbuilders Council of America

Jennifer Carpenter
President & CEO
American Waterways Operators