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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <https://commerce.senate.gov>

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request the prompt nomination of the 27th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Given the time required to confirm the nomination in the Senate, it is imperative that we receive the official as soon as possible. Ensuring continuity of leadership is of the utmost importance to our national and economic security.

The Coast Guard is at the forefront of a number of strategic priorities for the United States, from the growing importance of security in the Arctic, to drug interdiction, environmental protection, and leading emergency response on the frontlines of the climate crisis. The Coast Guard also plays a pivotal role in bringing solutions to port congestion and addressing the ocean shipping supply chain. The Coast Guard is responsible for securing the world's largest system of ports and waterways including 95,000 miles of shoreline, nearly 4.5 million square miles of exclusive economic zone, and facilitating over \$5.4 trillion in maritime commerce annually.

In 2021, the Coast Guard responded to 21 named storms, counting seven total hurricanes (with four major hurricanes, including the Category 4 Hurricane Ida); responded to a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti; assisted 20,740 people, saved 4,747 lives, and protected \$61.9 million in property in over 16,400 Search and Rescue cases; investigated 11,062 pollution incident reports; and supported the movement of \$754 million worth of cargo through icebreaking activity in the Great Lakes and Northeast.

Despite the clear strategic importance of the Coast Guard in addressing challenges facing Americans at home and abroad, the administration has not yet nominated the leader to serve as Commandant. The current Coast Guard Commandant, Admiral Karl Schultz, is statutorily required to retire on May 31, 2022, under 14 U.S.C. § 302. In order to secure Senate confirmation of the next Commandant, the Senate must receive the nomination, hold a hearing, and hold a vote in the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation before ultimate consideration by the full Senate. For these reasons, Commandant nominations are traditionally received earlier in the calendar year, with this year's nomination already the latest in decades.

As the Chairs of the Committee and Subcommittee overseeing the Coast Guard, we believe that prompt action to nominate the next Commandant of the United States Coast Guard is imperative to national and economic security, as well as maintaining our commitment to the brave women and men who serve our nation as coasties. The Coast Guard has never failed to answer the call to serve our country, even when faced with an increasing operational tempo and compounding demands on the service—and we cannot fail them now. The historical nature of the nomination only lends to its significance, and urgency.

We appreciate your full and fair consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries,
Climate Change, and Manufacturing



Maria Cantwell
Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

Cc:

Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor of the United States
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
Admiral Karl Schultz, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard