

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

Admiral Linda Fagan
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20593

December 5, 2022

Dear Acting Director Young, Secretary Mayorkas, and Admiral Fagan:

As the Administration works to finalize its Fiscal Year 2024 budget request to Congress, we urge you to include adequate funding to support the U.S. Coast Guard's acquisition of a Great Lakes icebreaker as capable as USCGC MACKINAW (WLBB-30).

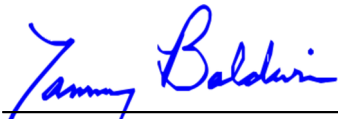
Icebreaking capacity supports the movement of commerce on the Great Lakes, totaling more than 90 million tons of cargo annually. According to a study commissioned by the Lake Carriers' Association, businesses that depend upon the Great Lakes maritime industry lost over \$1 billion in revenues because of vessel delays caused by inadequate icebreaking during the 2018-2019 ice-season. Additionally, these vessel delays resulted in the loss of 5,421 jobs dependent upon the efficient delivery of cargo throughout the Great Lakes Region.

The Coast Guard is required to maintain a heavy icebreaking capability on the Great Lakes to keep our region's ports and harbors open and facilitate our nation's free flow of commerce. However, the current maintenance condition of the existing icebreaking fleet has resulted in 182 lost operating days in the winter of 2018-2019 primarily due to engine failures. To this end, Congress has authorized the Coast Guard to acquire a new Great Lakes icebreaker at least as capable as the heavy icebreaker USCGC MACKINAW (WLBB-30) and has directed and provided funding for the Coast Guard to establish a major program acquisition office to support the design and procurement of that vessel. In a report to Congress required by the Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-93), the Coast Guard reported a requirement of \$350 million in Procurement, Construction and Improvements funding over the acquisition period for this new heavy Great Lakes icebreaker. As Admiral Linda Fagan testified during her Senate confirmation hearing, "We are committed as a priority to a heavy icebreaker in the Great Lakes," and "I am committed as a priority to fielding the heavy icebreaker capacity that the Great Lakes need to supplement the current capacity up there. It is a priority."

Accordingly, we urge you to request at least \$40 million for analyze and select activities and to initiate acquisition of long lead time materials for this new heavy Great Lakes icebreaker in your FY 2024 budget request. We also request that the Coast Guard include acquisition of this new heavy Great Lakes icebreaker in the service's Capital Investment Plan submitted with the Coast Guard's FY 2024 budget request.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of our views.

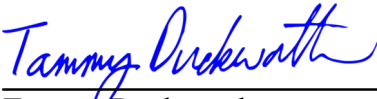
Sincerely,



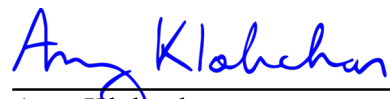
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



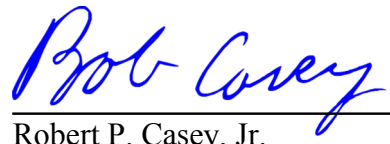
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator