

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Mark H. Buzby
Administrator
U.S. Maritime Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Admiral Buzby:

We are writing to express our support for an application submitted by Philly Shipyard to receive grant funding under the U.S. Maritime Administration's Small Shipyard Grant Program. It is our understanding that Philly Shipyard is seeking funding to support a portion of the cost for two projects:

1. Perform critically needed upgrades and modernization of one of its primary welding systems, and;
2. Purchase new, U.S.-manufactured equipment which fabricates smaller components for the ships built at the shipyard.

Together, these two projects will have an immediate impact on Philly Shipyard's productivity, efficiency and competitiveness.

Philly Shipyard began operations in 2000 and remains among the newest shipyards in the United States. In its early days, the shipyard was outfitted with the most modern shipbuilding systems and equipment available at that time. This enabled Philly Shipyard to deliver 30 high quality, large ocean-going commercial vessels in less than 15 years – and become the leading producer of these types of vessels in the country.

While the shipyard has performed upgrades on several critical systems in the past several years, the two projects that are the subject of this application were installed in the 1990s and have outdated and obsolete technologies and control systems, inhibiting Philly Shipyard's ability to maximize productivity.

This grant will provide the shipyard with the most modern welding systems available today and will directly contribute to the efficiency, productivity and lower costs for ships built at the shipyard. This in turn will enable Philly Shipyard to remain a critical part of the shipbuilding industrial base, and a continued source of good-paying jobs.

We thank you for consideration of Philly Shipyard's application during your review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Gay Scanlon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Scanlon" clearly legible.

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Signatories

Congressman Brendan Boyle
Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick
Congresswoman Madeleine Dean
Congressman Lloyd Smucker
Congressman Andy Kim
Congressman Scott Perry
Congressman Donald Norcross
Congressman Jeff Van Drew
Congressman Dwight Evans
Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan
Congresswoman Susan Wild