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HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS



Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District, Connecticut

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2332 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICES:

55 MAIN STREET, SUITE 250  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

February 22, 2021

Mr. David M. Heller  
Acting Associate Administrator for Business and Finance Development  
Room W21-318  
Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Thames Shipyard & Repair Co. Small Shipyard Grant Program**

Dear Mr. Heller:

I write to you today in full support of the proposal submitted by Thames Shipyard & Repair, Co. of New London, CT for funding under the Maritime Administration's Small Shipyard Grant program. If awarded funding, Thames Shipyard will look to improve and expand its surface preparation capabilities to achieve greater capacity and efficiency in the size and number of vessels it is able to service at the yard. For over 100 years, Thames Shipyard has performed work on commercial vessels from Maine to Delaware, including large vehicular ferries, high-speed ferries, tugs, barges, and commercial fishing vessels. Additionally, it performs work for Electric Boat Shipyard, the U.S. Naval Base, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

If funded, Thames Shipyard would purchase new surface preparation equipment each consisting in general terms of a compressor, blast pot, control system, and hoses/nozzles. Rather than replacing its current arsenal, the new equipment will complement existing equipment, thereby increasing shipyard capabilities, capacity, and efficiency, subsequently allowing it to serve more vessels from the core of its customer base, as well as enabling it to take on larger jobs and complete jobs quicker.

Eastern Connecticut's economy and history are tied to its vast and rich commercial waterfront. Shipyards contribute an economic impact of more than \$2.5 billion annually to the state's economy. Despite a national decline in the commercial shipbuilding sector, ship repair has slowly but steadily grown for over a decade and a half. Over this time, Thames Shipyard enlarged and renovated one of its dry docks, catalyzing demand and further supporting employment stability and adding jobs.

Based on over 100 years of maritime service, including longstanding contributions to Connecticut's economy through their hundreds of commercial vessel dry dockings, numerous new constructions and vessel re-powering and overhauls, we fully support Thames Shipyard's application and request your full consideration.

Sincerely,

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

