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HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS



Joe Courtney
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March 8, 2018

Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, USN, Ret.
Maritime Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration, West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear RADM Buzby:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to express my wholehearted support of Cross Sound Ferry (CSF) and the Cross Sound Enhancements Project for funding under the America's Marine Highway Program.

CSF is a critical transportation service that provides 12,000 one-way vessel trips each year along a 16-mile water route operating between New London, Connecticut and Orient Point, Long Island. The service eliminates a 166-mile highway drive through congested portions of Long Island, New York City and Connecticut along the I-95 corridor.

Funding from America's Marine Highway Program will enable the acquisition of an additional vehicular ferry ramp to accommodate both passengers and vehicles, including tractor trailer trucks in segregated loading platforms. This would increase CSF's capacity to accommodate the equivalent of 3,000 additional large trucks per year, saving nearly 500,000 additional highway miles. Following tremendous growth in recent years – as many as 77 daily departures between three different states – this project will further promote the safety of vehicular and passenger flow at the Cross Sound Ferry terminal in New London.

Cross Sound Ferry is an integral component of New London's multi-modal transportation infrastructure connecting roll-on roll-off vehicular ferries, passenger ferries, high-speed and commuter trains, interstate and local bus services, taxi and livery services and a nearby parking facility. The growth and reliability of ferry service is vital to the continued prosperity and ultimate success of the region. Each year, CSF makes critical capital investments in its service and ridership continues to increase while simultaneously removing vehicles from the I-95 corridor.

In addition to improved efficiency and safety measures, this proposal supports emissions reductions, energy savings and landside transportation infrastructure maintenance savings. It is my pleasure to endorse CSF's application for funding and I urge your full consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress