

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

We write in support of JAG Alaska Inc.'s application to the Maritime Administration's fiscal year 2026 Small Shipyard Grant Program. The requested funding would support the construction of an additional rail structure at the Seward Shipyard, enhancing vessel handling capacity and improving operational efficiency.

Seward is Alaska's northernmost deepwater, ice-free port, and serves as an essential transportation hub throughout Alaska. The Seward Shipyard provides critical services, including maintenance and repair of federal, state, and commercial vessels operating in Alaska's demanding maritime environment. The City of Seward owns the shipyard, and JAG Alaska has operated it since 2018, expanding the workforce from approximately 6 employees to around 200 in 2025. With two ship lifts, heavy-lift cranes, and extensive fabrication space, Seward plays a key role in supporting maritime activity across the region.

The proposed rail structure will build on this growth by increasing yard capacity and improving vessel throughput, allowing the shipyard to better meet rising demand. This investment is also important to national security and Arctic operations, as Alaska continues to play a growing role in supporting U.S. Coast Guard activity, including the future icebreaker fleet, as well as increased commercial traffic and energy development.

Consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, we respectfully ask that due consideration be given to this application and all other relevant Alaskan applications submitted for this solicitation. The specific project information included herein was provided by the project sponsor, and we support this project as presented to us. Finally, we ask that you keep our offices apprised of the outcome of the application.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Nicholas J. Begich III
Representative for All Alaska