

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 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 Catalyst Marine Engineering's application to the Maritime Administration's fiscal year 2026 Small Shipyard Grant Program. The requested funding would support equipment investments to enhance productivity and automation, including a state-of-the-art 600-ton press brake, a robotic welding system, and upgrades to material-handling and welding equipment.

Catalyst Marine Engineering is located in Seward, Alaska's northernmost deepwater, ice-free port, and serves as an essential transportation hub throughout the state. Alaska and its communities are geographically isolated, and the state relies almost exclusively on maritime commerce for most of its economic activity, which cannot be serviced by air. Having healthy and highly functioning shipyards is a critical requirement for the state.

Catalyst Marine was previously awarded MARAD grants in fiscal years 2018 and 2022. These grants enabled the company to purchase equipment for in-house water-jet fabrication rather than relying on outsourced work in the Lower 48 and to procure new equipment that supports mobile maritime emergency repair response. Both grants strengthened the Seward Shipyard, allowing it to service more vessels in-house and in emergency situations. Building on this proven track record, the proposed investments represent a strategic next step in further modernizing the yard and expanding its capabilities to meet growing demand.

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