

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 06, 2019

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

Dear Administrator Buzby:

We write in support of TPG Chicago Dry Dock's (TCDD's) U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration Small Shipyard Grant request. Along with considerable private sector funding, TCDD proposes using federal grant funds to construct the largest dry dock in the Lower Lake Michigan region. This dry dock will help provide repair services to vessel operators on the Great Lakes as well as the U.S. Inland Waterways System. For many regional maritime businesses, this shipyard delivers an irreplaceable and convenient repair service.

TCDD's shipyard facility, founded in 1995, strategically operates on seven acres of land less than three miles from Lake Michigan on the Calumet River. The facility links to the U.S. Inland Waterways through the Calumet, Des Plaines, and Illinois Rivers. Currently, the shipyard facility operates three floating dry docks that can provide dry dock repair services to smaller vessels, including tow boats, tug boats, commercial tour and passenger vessels, and barges. However, the facility cannot accommodate larger vessels due to the lack of a large dry dock. Other capable shipyards are not positioned to offer similar, unburdened dual access to the Great Lakes and U.S. Inland Waterways markets.

Notably, the project will benefit regional industry and commerce, stimulate substantial economic growth, double the shipyard's workforce, and provide access to skilled workforce training. The construction of this dry dock will shrink the area's market gap for vessel repair services and enable operators of large vessels, along with those locally based, to remain in the Lower Lake Michigan region for valuable services, keeping this work in the U.S. rather than in foreign shipyards.

We ask that you give TCDD's request full and fair consideration, within applicable laws and regulations. Please contact our offices if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Todd Young  
United States Senator



Dick Durbin  
United States Senator



Mike Braun  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Pete Visclosky  
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth  
Member of Congress