

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2023

The Honorable Ann C. Phillips, USN (Ret.)
Administrator
Maritime Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Rear Admiral Phillips:

We write in support of the application submitted by The Portland Company, also known as the Portland Ship Yard, to the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) FY2023 Small Shipyard Grant. Portland Ship Yard seeks funding to modernize its shipyard operations through the acquisition of a new, U.S.-built vessel trailer system and a ventilation system.

As the only commercial shipyard in Portland, Maine's largest port, Portland Ship Yard helps sustain many commercial and government vessels, including commercial fishing vessels, freight barges, tugs, spill response vessels, research vessels, ecotourism vessels and government-owned vessels, such as city fire boats. As a previous awardee of a Small Shipyard Grant, Portland Ship Yard is well aware of the transformative power that a federal partnership can have. Due in part to its initial award in 2017, the Ship Yard has been able to double the number of employees at its Portland facility. Now, as the Ship Yard prepares to meet the increased ship repair and maintenance needs of the wind energy industry, Portland Ship Yard is once again looking to modernize through partnership with MARAD.

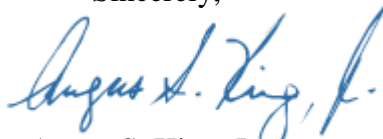
Portland Ship Yard seeks \$705,552 in federal monies to match \$235,184 in private funding for shipyard infrastructure improvements. With MARAD support, this project would facilitate faster and more efficient services by moving ship repair projects into climate-controlled buildings and allowing for more work to be conducted in-house. Specifically, Portland Ship Yard would acquire a new ventilation system for improved air quality, as well as a vessel trailer to improve space in the yard and accommodate a greater number of vessels. These improvements are critical due to Maine's varied weather conditions.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the Portland Ship Yard. We urge your careful consideration of its proposal, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff please notify Trevor Hustus (Collins) at (202) 224-2523, Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344, and Corrinne Latti (Pingree) at (207) 774-5019 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress