

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2018

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

Dear Rear Adm. Buzby:

We write in support of the application submitted by Front Street Shipyard, located in Belfast, Maine, to the Maritime Administration's Small Shipyard Grant Program. Front Street seeks to purchase and install a new waterjet cutting machine on its premises to construct modern, lightweight carbon fiber ferries.

Established in 2011, Front Street Shipyard provides marine clients in Maine and beyond with boatbuilding and related services, including new builds, boat refitting, repairs, and maintenance. Front Street has formed a partnership with Brodrene AA, a Norwegian boat builder that specializes in building carbon fiber ferries in Europe. The partnership has allowed Front Street to access a new and growing market for carbon fiber boats, further strengthening its status as a leading American shipyard in boatbuilding.

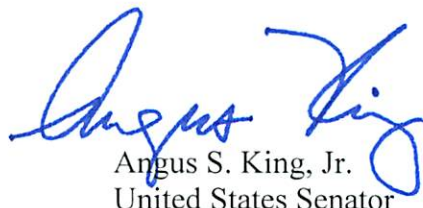
If the project is funded, Front Street plans to acquire a waterjet cutting machine that would help diversify the shipyard's service offerings to include a new production line, greatly enhancing its global competitiveness. According to Front Street, the new machine would enable fast precision cutting of carbon fiber parts, making the shipyard the only U.S. company with these unique manufacturing capabilities. In addition to other local economic benefits, Front Street anticipates that acquiring this new equipment will allow for the hiring of approximately 40 new full-time employees.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of Front Street Shipyard. We urge your careful consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff please notify Katie Seelen (Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator