

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2018

Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby
Administrator
U.S. Maritime Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Admiral Buzby:


We write in support of the Quonset Development Corporation's (QDC) proposal for funding through the MARAD's Marine Highways Grant Program. This funding would support QDC's Marine Highways Project, which is a partnership among QDC, the Red Hook Container Terminal in Brooklyn, and SEACOR AMH, LLC. in Newark.

In February 2018, Secretary Elaine Chao designated the "Port of Davisville/Brooklyn/Newark Container on Barge Service" as a new Marine Highway Project, making it eligible for grant funding. The service outlined in the designation will provide north and south bound cargo transportation along the M-95 Marine Highway Corridor through the use of a 800 TEU capacity barge.


As the northern terminus of this service, the Port of Davisville combines port, rail, air, and ground transportation, is a top ten port in North America for vehicle imports, and is a gateway to markets throughout Southern New England. In the grant proposal, QDC and its partners are requesting funds to purchase yard equipment in order to facilitate the movement of containers at the Port of Davisville. The added capability will make the short sea shipping service more efficient and competitive, providing a viable alternative for freight shipping along the congested I-95 corridor.

We support QDC's proposal and request your consideration of this application within all applicable rules and regulations. If we can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our offices. Thank you.

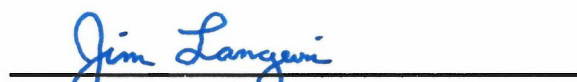
Sincerely,



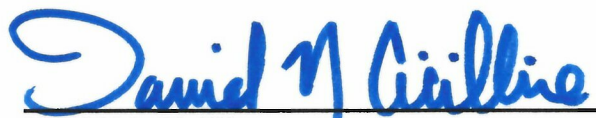
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress