

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 29, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Stephen Carmel
Administrator
U.S. Maritime Administrator
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy and Administrator Carmel,

I am writing in support of Delta Marine Industries, Inc.'s application to the Department of Transportation Maritime Administration's Small Shipyard Grant Program. Delta Marine is seeking \$1,799,000 for its Travelift Upgrade Project.

Founded in 1967, Delta Marine is a full-service shipyard located on the Lower Duwamish Waterway in Seattle, within five nautical miles of Puget Sound. For more than fifty years, it has built commercial fishing vessels and other large vessels while providing vessel repair and refit services. Today the shipyard employs roughly 300 skilled workers and serves about 70 customers each year, including the region's commercial fishing fleet, passenger ferry operators, marine construction firms, and tug and barge companies. This makes Delta Marine an important part of Washington state's maritime industrial base.

Demand for Delta Marine's repair and construction services now exceeds the capacity of its existing mobile boat hoist. Larger vessels, including some built at the shipyard, cannot be hauled out or launched locally and must travel to facilities hundreds of miles away, adding cost and sending work and skilled jobs outside of Washington. With this funding, Delta Marine will acquire a new 620-ton Travelift, among the largest serving Puget Sound, to replace its aging, lower-capacity lift. The upgrade will allow the shipyard to haul out and launch larger vessels in Seattle and to reduce its reliance on distant out-of-state yards.

This is a highly leveraged investment, with Delta Marine providing 60 percent of the project's cost, well above the program's required minimum match. By keeping vessel repair work and the skilled jobs that support it in Washington state, the project strengthens both the regional maritime economy and the domestic shipbuilding base.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of Delta Marine's application to the Small Shipyard Grant program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell

United States Senator