

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590


Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of SAFE Boats International (SBI)'s application to the 2020 MARAD Small Shipyard Grant. Funding from this grant will allow SBI to upgrade its aging equipment providing for a more modern, efficient shipyard.

Located in rural Kitsap County, SBI is the largest maritime employer and one of the top private employers in the county, with over 250 employees. SBI is a leading provider of vessels for the United States military and law enforcement. According to SBI, grant funding will allow them to replace two essential, aging pieces of equipment. A new three-axis router will increase SBI's in-house cutting speed and capacity, increase the size of material processed and efficiency in the use of raw materials. They will also replace a numerically controlled press brake, enabling SAFE Boats to form work pieces more precisely and faster with higher tolerances and improve efficiency. These upgrades will increase capacity, improve productivity and limit outsourcing.

With grant funding, SAFE Boats International will continue to modernize and expand, creating new jobs and continuing its delivery of state-of-the-art, reliable vessels. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of SAFE Boats International's application.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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