

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 2, 2018

The Honorable Mark Buzby
Administrator
Maritime Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Small Shipyard Grant Application from Nichols Brothers Boat Builders

Dear Rear Adm. Buzby,

I am pleased to write in support of the Nichols Brothers Boat Builders' (NBBB) application to the Small Shipyard Grant Program. This project will allow the NBBB to increase their efficiency and better compete in the market.

The NBBB is requesting \$1.2 million to purchase a new 250-ton large crawler crane. To keep up with workboat customer demand for larger vessels, the shipyard is constructing larger ship modules, and increased crane capacity is necessary to do so efficiently. With this new equipment they will be able to build and lift larger vessels and components, allowing their shipbuilding business to expand and become more competitive.

The Nichols Brothers Boat Builders Crane Upgrade Project will help sustain important passenger and vehicle ferry transportation links to rural island communities, as well as benefit American manufacturing and jobs through the purchasing of a U.S.-built crane. I support this application and ask that you give it your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator