



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves
Chairman

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Jack Ruddy, Staff Director

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

February 20, 2025

Admiral Kevin E. Lunday
Acting Commandant, United States Coast Guard
United States Coast Guard Headquarters
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Admiral Lunday:

As you know, decades of underfunding have led the Coast Guard to major acquisition problems, failing infrastructure, and a workforce shortage affecting every servicemember.

We are deeply concerned that the administration's narrow focus on the southern border will jeopardize the Coast Guard's ten remaining statutory missions and put American lives in jeopardy. Surging Coast Guard assets and personnel to the border is putting tremendous strain on a service already stretched thin. We implore you to not neglect the other missions of the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is, first and foremost, a **life-saving service**. Missions like search and rescue and marine safety are essential to protecting the American public.

Recent estimates point to a \$7 billion backlog of infrastructure projects service-wide. The Coast Guard must continue to repair and replace critical infrastructure around the country. Servicemembers deserve to work in top-of-the-line facilities. We will continue to push for additional funding in annual appropriations and, in return, we urge you to continue to prioritize Procurement, Construction and Investment funds towards shoreside infrastructure needs as well as advocate internally for increased infrastructure funding.

For the first time in six years, the Coast Guard was able to surpass enlistment goals. A remarkable achievement at a time when military recruitment is struggling across the board. This was only accomplished through innovative measures and targeting previously underrepresented communities.

As you assume command, it is our expectation that you will continue the work of your predecessor. It is important now more than ever to foster a workforce where morale is high. Attempts to attack civil rights and dismantle groups and programs that promote respect and a

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positive work environment will inevitably reverse the progress made in recruitment efforts. Injecting politics into the Coast Guard will hurt the women and men dedicated to serving this country.

Operation Fouled Anchor (OFA) left a dark stain on the service when the decision was made in 2020 to hide the investigation from Congress. The Accountability and Transparency Review (ATR) provides an important blueprint detailing how to move the service forward. We expect you to continue implementing the recommendations from the ATR and working to address the issues of sexual assault, sexual harassment and harassment in both the Coast Guard and the maritime industry.

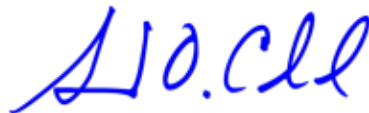
It is our responsibility as leaders of the Committee and Subcommittee of jurisdiction to oversee the actions of the Coast Guard. We hope that moving forward we can work together to ensure the Coast Guard is as strong as ever and that the service continues its success across all missions.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Matt Dwyer, Minority Staff Director, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, at (202) 225-4472.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



Salud Carbajal
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Coast Guard
and Maritime Transportation



Robert Garcia
Vice Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Coast Guard
and Maritime Transportation