

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0904

June 4, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

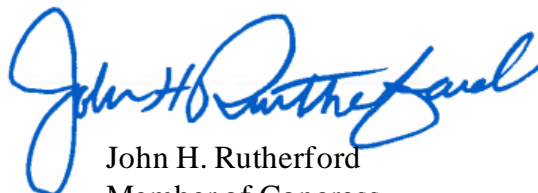
On behalf of the United States Marine Corps and my constituents in Northeast Florida, I am requesting \$69.4 million for the P-021 Lighterage and Small Craft Facility in the Fiscal Year 2022 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies House Appropriations bill. The project is located at Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island, 5880 Channel View Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32226.

Blount Island Command (BICmd) is the hub of the Marine Corps' repositioning program. Currently, Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island (MCSF-BI) has no inherent waterfront capability to support lighterage maintenance although BICmd provides maintenance and stewardship for 72% of all Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) in service. All watercraft requiring maintenance, repair, and upgrades must be transported via water offsite to shipyards in the Jacksonville area, incurring \$2.1 million in additional annual costs. A combination of a straddle lift, a transporter, and ship's cranes are used to lift lighterage components into and out of the water. The current maintenance process is not efficient, has external dependencies, and creates additional cost.

Completion of this project will support more efficient execution of INLS maintenance processes by providing the necessary infrastructure upgrades to BICmd facilities. Additional benefits include decreasing the reliance on commercial shipyards, the efficiencies gained in not relying on MSC vessels to lift INLS in/out of the slipway, and the replacement of the current sub-optimal moorings.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. Thank you for your consideration of this project that is of significant importance to my district.

Sincerely,



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress