

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

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Rogers:

I am requesting funding for the P021 Lighterage and Small Craft Facility in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island, located at 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.

The funding would be used to 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.

Sincerely,



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress