

Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips (USN, Ret.)

Maritime Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Phillips,

Please accept this letter as [USMH Route Sponsor's] endorsement of [Applicant] and its [USMH Route] Marine Highway Grant Project application for consideration under the FY 2024 United States Marine Highway (USMH) grant opportunity. [Applicant], a private sector owner of the development site in [location], intends to submit a grant application for a FY 2024 USMH Program Grant under the Maritime Administration's ("MARAD") open Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

The [Route Sponsor] requested a USMH Route Designation for the [Route] in [Year]. The [USMH Route] stretches from [Origin and Destination] and spans [XXX] states. While several Marine Highway operations already serve this Route, there is significant opportunity for expansion to help address growing congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve energy, and lower landside infrastructure maintenance costs.

[Applicant's] marine highway project will serve the designated [USMH Route]. [USMH Route Sponsor] believes [Applicant's] project will develop, expand, or promote marine highway transportation or shipper use of marine highway transportation. [Add brief description of project]. Moreover, the project's concept and significant benefits remain consistent with the purpose behind the USMH Program and vision set out in the original Route Designation application. [USMH Route Sponsor] has partnered with [Project Applicant] in the past to deliver quality projects on time and within budget, and this application provides another opportunity for [Applicant] to deliver a much-needed project on the [USMH Route].

Please let me know if [USMH Route Sponsor] can provide additional information in support of [Applicant's] application at [contact e-mail address] and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

[USMH Route Sponsor Representative]

[Position], [USMH Route Sponsor Organization]