

APR 15 2008

Dear Admiral Allen:

We are sending you this letter to express our gratitude for the personal attention you have given Coast Guard's Marine Safety program the past several months. Industry and Congressional concern for Coast Guard performance of this vital mission needed addressing from the top. Your personal outreach to the stakeholders as well as the plans your staff developed to improve the program are making a difference. We fully support the Marine Safety Enhancement Plan delivered to Congress on September 25, 2007. This plan appropriately targets the concerns that have been voiced by both industry and Coast Guard members, and we are seeing progress towards addressing those concerns. We have also been closely following the Coast Guard's historic modernization efforts. Your Headquarters organization modernization plan provides the appropriate level of focus and visibility to implement the marine safety program enhancements.

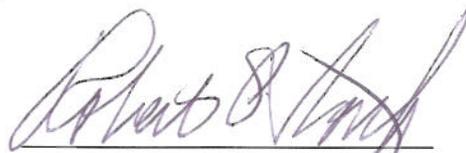
We fully support Congressional commitment to hold the Coast Guard accountable for mission performance in Marine Safety, as in all other missions. At the same time, we believe that you need to have maximum flexibility in managing Coast Guard forces to achieve mission success. To achieve that degree of flexibility, the Coast Guard should continue its integrated approach to maritime safety, security, and stewardship to ensure our country's Marine Transportation System (MTS) operates safely and efficiently.

Above all, we applaud the Coast Guard and the Administration's request for additional resources to address Marine Safety mission requirements. By increasing capacity and expertise, the Coast Guard will be able to keep stride with the rapidly growing MTS and provide the level of services that maritime stakeholders expect and deserve.

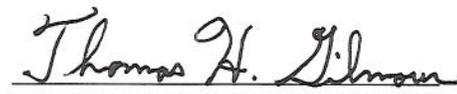
We stand ready to assist in achieving the Coast Guard's Marine Safety goals.

Sincerely,


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RADM ROBERT C. NORTH
U.S. Coast Guard, (Ret.)


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