

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

January 15, 2019

Dear Congressman DeFazio & Senator Thune:

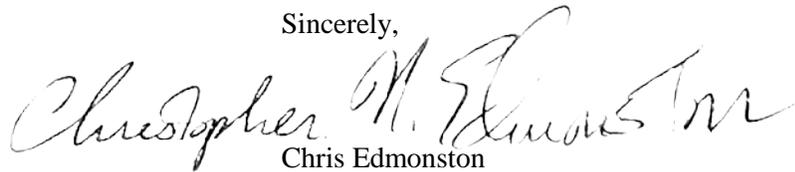
On behalf of the Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatU.S.) we would like to express our support for your recently introduced bills, S. 21 and H.R. 367, the *Pay Our Coast Guard Acts*. BoatU.S. is the nation's largest advocacy, services and safety group for recreational boaters, with over 600,000 dues paying members, and the representative for America's nearly 12 million registered boat owners. As one of the groups directly affected by the readiness of United States Coast Guard, boat owners have a profound interest in all issues that have a material impact on its smooth functioning.

While we understand the current debate over funding of the Department of Homeland Security is primarily about issues not directly related to the Coast Guard, we are concerned over the potential deterioration of its ability to fulfill its wide range of missions including search and rescue, boating safety regulation and maintenance of aids-to-navigation. We support your effort to ensure that U.S. Coast Guard personnel will receive compensation notwithstanding the final passage of the DHS 2019 appropriation legislation. This will allow U.S. Coast Guard members to focus on their missions and help ensure the safety of recreational boaters.

Despite the current lapse in funding, thousands of U.S. Coast Guard professionals have continued to perform critical missions regardless of their own financial uncertainty. This is a true testament to their dedication, living the Coast Guard motto, **Semper Paratus - Always Ready**. It is very fitting for the Congress to take action to ensure their well-being for the long term.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to the resolution of the current budget impasse. We also stand ready to assist with this or any other issues relating to recreational boating.

Sincerely,



Chris Edmonston
Vice President for Government Affairs
Boat Owners Association of The United States

Cc: Co-Sponsors of S. 21 and H.R. 367