

Date

Representative or Senator

Address

City, State Zip

Re: Support for the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program

Dear Rep. or Sen. _____

I am writing to express my support for an appropriation of \$10 million to the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, to fund the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program, a competitive grant opportunity that requires at least a one-to-one, non-federal funding match, and which benefits maritime communities in our state and nationwide.

The grant program has provided less than \$10 million in grants since 1994, funded in the past from a percentage of profits from the recycling of ships by the Maritime Administration. The grant program was suspended in 2017. I support the request by the National Maritime Alliance to include funding in Fiscal Year 2022.

Support for the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program is more important than ever to the maritime heritage community, a group of over 500 maritime museums and countless related organizations in over 40 states. We are a community committed to increasing public support for America's maritime heritage. Without reliable sources of funding, these non-profit organizations that maintain historic naval ships, maritime museums, historic lighthouses and other heritage resources are forced to operate under serious financial constraint, especially as a consequence of COVID-19.

(You may want to add personal details about your state/district or maritime organization/interests here.)

I urge you to include \$10 million in the authorization and appropriation bills to support the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program. Thank you for your consideration and effort on behalf of the maritime heritage community.

Sincerely,

Name

Organization

Address

City, State Zip

Cc: Dr. Timothy Runyan, National Maritime Alliance, via email runyant@ecu.edu