

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write today to express serious concerns with the severe resource constraints being placed on the U.S. Coast Guard, and in particular with the consequences of the recent redirection via Action Order 1 of major resources to the southwest and southeast maritime borders on the Coast Guard's ability to execute all eleven of its statutory missions, especially its critical overseas missions in this time of accelerating great nation competition.

While we acknowledge the importance of securing our maritime borders, the resulting redirection of critical Coast Guard resources is unquestionably impacting the broader execution of its remaining statutory missions. Specifically, the reallocation of assets and personnel to focus almost exclusively on the border is straining the Coast Guard's ability to fulfill its essential duties in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere in the world.

These changes are of particular concern given the increasing strategic importance of the Coast Guard's national security role in the face of rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific region. That is essential to our nation's effort to counter the People's Republic of China (PRC) through strengthening presence and partnerships, focusing on maritime law enforcement and addressing "gray zone" tactics through capacity building, joint patrols and other means.

The Central and Western Pacific have been especially impacted. For example, a C-130 aircraft and its crew, critical to Coast Guard responsibilities in this broad area, were taken from Air Station Barbers Point in District 14 and redirected to District 11 to support migrant relocation efforts. Additionally, USCGC Kimball, a national security cutter homeported in Honolulu, was redirected to the Eastern Pacific from its planned mission to the Western Pacific. Further, Operation Blue Pacific, an overarching multi-mission Coast Guard endeavor to combat the PRC by promoting security, safety, sovereignty and economic prosperity in Oceania that strengthens relationships between our partners in the region, has been completely cancelled for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025, owing to a lack of resources in assets, personnel and funds. All of this leaves a void the PRC is filling to the detriment of our national security.

The Coast Guard's drug and migrant interdiction missions are important. However, the Coast Guard has nine other statutory missions in addition to those two, which are outlined in 6 USC 468. According to that same section, the executive branch may not substantially or significantly reduce the missions of the Coast Guard or its capability to perform those missions.

It is clear that the Coast Guard needs more resources to execute its renewed focus on the drug and migrant interdiction, particularly at the southwest and southeast maritime borders, and even more to carry out its nine other statutory missions, including protecting U.S. national security

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

interests and territory in the Indo-Pacific. The reality is that at current resourcing levels, increasing readiness at the maritime borders means reducing readiness in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere, which directly translates to endangering American citizens.

To help defend our nation from the PRC and other threats, along with ensuring the continued ability of the Coast Guard to fully support its statutory missions, we strongly urge the Department of Homeland Security to include a significant increase in its budget request for the Coast Guard in the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget ensuring that it can competently execute all 11 of its statutory missions, as required by 6 USC 468.

We in Congress are ready to support a budget request that will ensure that the Coast Guard can execute all of its missions to the fullest of its abilities, one that will ensure the safety and security of Americans across the country and the world.

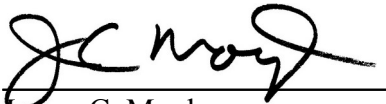
Sincerely,



Ed Case
Member of Congress



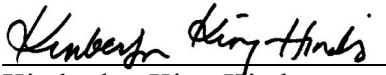
Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
Member of Congress



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Member of Congress



Nicholas J. Begich III
Congressman for All Alaska

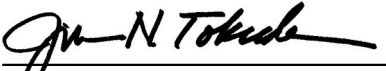


Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Tokuda", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress