

March 7, 2017

The President  
The White House  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recently the Office of Management and Budget sent federal agencies a preliminary FY 2018 budget framework, identifying its top-line funding amounts for the agencies. We understand that the guidance includes a 10 percent reduction to Homeland Defense, hitting the Coast Guard.

Cutting the budget of the service that operates under the Navy during wartime or by presidential order to protect the nation's waterways, and which performs search and rescue, law enforcement, and environmental cleanup is antithetical to supporting the nation's safety and security.

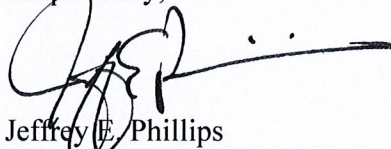
*"We will give the men and women of America's armed services the resources you need to keep us safe,"* you told America in your powerful State of the Union address. *"We will have the finest equipment in the world – planes, ships and everything else. We are going to have, very soon, the finest equipment in the world. We will give our military the tools you need to prevent war and, if required, to fight war and only do one thing -- you know what that is? Win! Win! We're going to start winning again."*

President Trump, to win we need a fully funded Coast Guard; we ask you to ensure that funding is made possible, to resource, among other things, the ice breakers needed to at least match Russian aggression in the Arctic.

The Coast Guard supported national security by serving in the Persian Gulf; and in 2014 they fired at an Iranian fishing boat after its crew pointed a machine gun at an American crew. They expertly perform security missions few Americans ever hear about. They spent more than a decade in Afghanistan inspecting and certifying military cargo being shipped back to the United States. The Coast Guard's performance responding to disasters such as the Haitian earthquake, and Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy was as impeccable as it was essential.

Mr. President, as you develop the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, we urge you to provide the United States Coast Guard with the same budgetary support as our Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force. Thank you for your support of those who serve our nation in uniform and your resolve to keep our magnificent Coast Guard *semper paratus!*

Respectfully,



Jeffrey E. Phillips  
Maj. Gen., USA (Ret.)  
Executive Director

*Thank you for your leadership, sir!*