The Honorable Representative/Senator *(name)* month day, 2016 House of Representatives or US Senate Washington, DC 20515 20510 if Senate

Dear Representative or Senator (*name*):

My name is …… and I represent the …….. I am writing to ask that you assure the inclusion of Section 3508 “Use of National Defense Reserve Fleet Scrapping Proceeds” in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4909, Title 35). This language restores a competitive public grants program in support of America’s maritime heritage. Your support is critical to insure its inclusion in the NDAA at the conference of the House and Senate.

*(name of organization, if applicable)* (*brief description)* … is devoted to the preservation and interpretation of America’s maritime heritage. The maritime heritage community is composed of 1,000 non-profit organizations in more than 40 states. This includes historic naval ships, maritime museums, tall ships for sail training, lighthouses, maritime historical societies, education, and preservation organizations. Thousands of veterans serve as staff or volunteers.

Section 3508 reverses language included in the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act amending the National Maritime Heritage Act, which had allowed the Maritime Administration to use all of the maritime heritage grant funds solely for its own maritime heritage. This resulted in reduced funding to maritime heritage organizations by fifty per cent. Complementary language in the House and Senate seeks greater transparency and reporting in the ship-scrapping process and distribution of funds.

Restoration of this funding will enable these organizations to compete for funds from the disposal of vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet. Please act to insure Section 3508 “Use of National Defense Reserve Fleet Scrapping Proceeds” is included in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Name and organization/address Email/telephone