

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2025

The Honorable Admiral Kevin E. Lunday
Acting Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Admiral Lunday,

We write today to draw your attention to the great infrastructure needs of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) and to ask that you prioritize planning and executing the short- and long-term improvements necessary for the Academy to best serve its cadets, faculty, and the overall U.S. Coast Guard mission. To ensure the Academy supports the development of top-tier Coast Guard leaders today and for decades to come, it is essential to address years of underinvestment in crumbling infrastructure and undergo a serious effort to modernize campus facilities.

The Academy is one of the Coast Guard's most important assets, responsible for training and educating our nation's maritime military leaders and commissioning 250 graduates each year as Coast Guard officers, and another 250 Officers through Officer Candidate School, to ensure our nation's waters are safe, secure, and effectively monitored. The New London, CT, campus is where every Coast Guard leader has developed the leadership skills, military training, and maritime know-how that the Service relies upon for the execution of its eleven missions, including search and rescue, law enforcement, drug interdiction, and defense readiness. When operating at its best, the Academy equips the Coast Guard to live fully into its service to nation, duty to people, and commitment to excellence.

Unfortunately, tight budgets, deferred maintenance, and delayed modernization projects have left the New London campus operating well below its potential and unable to meet the full needs of cadets, faculty, and the Service broadly. Sporadic funding has left the Academy with facilities averaging 65 years in age, stretched well beyond their service lives. Limited space has driven the Academy's utilization of building space over 90%, well above the academic standard of 65%, constraining swing space and flexibility. Despite decades of work to bring barracks up to standard, limited funds have delayed progress and have left most cadets crowded three to a room. In addition, while the number of USCGA sports teams has doubled since women arrived to the Academy in 1976, there has not been a corresponding increase in the number or size of facilities to support the school's 23 NCAA sports. As judged by the leaking, dilapidated pool built in 1932, outdated and failing HVAC and electrical systems, and unsafe pier infrastructure still requiring repairs after Super Storm Sandy in 2012, it's clear that Academy facilities need major investments to ensure the USCGA attracts the best and brightest and can effectively train and develop them for long, successful, fulfilling Coast Guard careers.

There are many other pressing demands on the Coast Guard's budget – including shipbuilding, helicopter recapitalization, and retention and recruitment efforts – but the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the United States Coast Guard cannot afford to let the Coast Guard Academy's long neglected infrastructure needs slip any further. We call on you and your

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service to commit to the focus, planning, and dedication of resources necessary to tackle the Academy's short- and long-term infrastructure needs – moving immediately to address the mold, electrical, habitability, and other issues that pose health and safety risks today, while committing to steady and substantial investments to modernize Academy facilities for years to come. By working closely and in good faith with Congress and Academy leadership to put annual appropriations dollars and recent supplemental funding to their intended and most effective use, the Coast Guard has a unique opportunity to help tackle these infrastructure issues and set up the Academy, its faculty, and cadets for long-term success.

To ensure that this opportunity to modernize Coast Guard Academy facilities is acted upon fully and expeditiously – with all necessary planning, funding, and execution in the short- and long-term – we request answers to the questions below no later than September 8, 2025.

1. The recently passed reconciliation bill included \$2.2 billion for major depot level maintenance and repair. How does the Coast Guard plan to use these funds to address infrastructure needs at the Academy – both immediately pressing issues and longer-term maintenance projects?
2. The reconciliation bill also provided \$4.379 billion for shore facility investments, including \$425 million without a specific designated purpose. How does the Coast Guard plan to use these funds to advance Academy facility improvements?
3. What projects are currently listed on the Academy's maintenance backlog, and what are the estimated associated costs by project?
4. Beyond the maintenance backlog, what additional Academy infrastructure project needs have been identified, and what are the estimated associated costs by project?
5. The fiscal year 2026 President's Budget Request included just \$21.3 million for shore facilities funding – proposing a dramatic 90% cut from the previous year's enacted amount. When Coast Guard facilities, at the Academy and elsewhere, are in need of serious, steady investments this year and into the future, how do you justify requesting such a dramatic cut to infrastructure funding in the Coast Guard's annual budget?
6. Especially in view of this year's dramatically low fiscal year 2026 request, how does the Coast Guard plan to ensure the consistent, robust funding necessary to fully modernize Coast Guard Academy facilities over the coming years?
7. How is Coast Guard leadership working with Academy personnel to plan, budget for, and execute on the short- and long-term infrastructure projects critical to the Academy's success?
8. How is the Coast Guard assessing and prioritizing the Academy's queue of infrastructure projects for funding and execution? Over the next 25 years, how much money annually does the Coast Guard estimate will be necessary to carry out infrastructure improvement plans?
9. What program management structure and staffing will the Coast Guard put into place to ensure the continuity and long-term success of Academy infrastructure modernization efforts? Will the Coast Guard create a new program management office responsible for acquiring, upgrading, and decommissioning these facilities?
10. How is the Coast Guard addressing the findings of the recent National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) report about ongoing mold, moisture, and air-quality problems at the Academy? How will upcoming investments address these issues and ensure the health and safety of the full Academy community?

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We look forward to receiving your responses and thank you in advance for your collaboration in ensuring these Coast Guard Academy infrastructure projects are properly planned and prioritized. The full federal Connecticut delegation stands ready to work with you to ensure the Academy is swiftly modernized and set up for long-term success.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
U.S. Senator



Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
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