

WILLIAM R. KEATING
9TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES
RANKING MEMBER
EUROPE
INDO-PACIFIC

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES
INTELLIGENCE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS
CYBER, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, AND
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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May 1, 2025

Chairman Tom Cole
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the New Bedford Police Vessel project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the New Bedford Police Department located at 871 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740. The funding would be used for a Police Vessel to be operated by the New Bedford Police Department within the Port of New Bedford. This vessel will perform the primary function of port safety and security in the nation's most valuable commercial fishing port and the first port supporting the installation of large-scale offshore commercial wind. The vessel will replace the existing aging vessel that was put in service in 2001. The proposed vessel will have the latest technology and safety equipment to address any safety or security issues that could arise with the multiple fishing, commercial, and recreational users of the Port. The vessel will also use a jet drive system that is much safer in a rescue situation than propeller drives. More importantly, the vessel will use a state-of-the-art diesel-electric hybrid drive system that will allow the vessel to operate on all electric power, diesel power, or both. The ability to run on battery power also serves as an enhanced safety feature when conducting search and rescue operations. It enables the vessel to run quietly and listen for people in distress. Such a drive system is completely in keeping with the direction the country is heading as far as more economical vehicles go and is also appropriate for the Port that is home to the nation's first large-scale offshore wind facility. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it supports the law enforcement efforts of the New Bedford Police Department and will assist in protecting the largest fishing port by dollar value in the United States along with other commercial and recreational interests within the Port of New Bedford.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM R. KEATING
9TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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