

Sen. Baldwin: Announces nearly \$2 million for Wisconsin shipyards

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Baldwin Secures Federal Grant to Support Shipyards in Sturgeon Bay, Superior

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin today announced that Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay and Fraser Shipyards in Superior have been awarded nearly \$2 million in 2018 Small Shipyard Grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Baldwin has long supported the Small Shipyard Grant Program that helps small shipyards, like Bay Shipbuilding and Fraser Shipyards, repair and modernize equipment, and train workers.

“In Wisconsin, and across America, small shipyards are considered the lifeblood of the maritime economy. I am proud to have secured these critical investments to support our Made in Wisconsin economy and a workforce that is second to none,” said Senator Baldwin. “These grants will allow Bay Shipbuilding and Fraser Shipyards to expand opportunities for employees, invest in capital improvements and remain competitive in the global maritime industry.”

“Bay Shipbuilding is thrilled to receive a Small Shipyard Grant that will allow us to be more efficient and offer the most competitive services possible. We thank

Senator Baldwin for her commitment to shipyards and for helping secure this investment as we continue to do our part in sustaining the Great Lakes fleet and Jones Act shipbuilding industry for our customers,” said Francesco Valente, President and CEO of Bay Shipbuilding.

“Fraser Shipyards is very pleased to be receiving a MARAD grant. We are particularly pleased with Senator Baldwin’s leadership and support of the maritime industry and our Wisconsin business. We look forward to the productivity gains we will garner with the new materials handling equipment,” said James Farkas, President and Chief Operating Officer of Fraser Shipyards.

President Trump’s proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget would have eliminated this critical program. Senator Baldwin led the Senate Appropriations Committee in rejecting that budget and including \$20 million for the Small Shipyard Grant Program in the FY19 THUD Senate Appropriations bill.

The Small Shipyard Grant Program provides assistance to small shipyards to make capital improvements and train workers to remain competitive in the global marketplace. The program provides Wisconsin manufacturers with opportunities to sell their products, and because Buy America provisions are applied to grant awards, the program supports American-made equipment and good-paying jobs.

Last year, Senators Baldwin and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced the [*Small Shipyards and Maritime Communities Act*](#) to reauthorize the Small Shipyard Grant Program through 2020. The bipartisan legislation was signed into law as part of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018*.

An online version of this release is available [here](#).