



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2008

Admiral Thad W. Allen
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
2100 Second Street, SW
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Admiral Allen:

On September 26, 2008, you awarded Bollinger Shipyards, Inc. a contract to design and build the first Fast Response Cutter – Sentinel Class patrol boat. Two other finalists in the competition to build the Fast Response Cutter were Marinette Marine Corporation and General Dynamics.

It has come to our attention that Marinette Marine Corporation proposed a contract bid for the Fast Response Cutter that was significantly less than Bollinger Shipyards, Inc. We respectfully request that you provide us with detailed information on the acquisition process and your final decision to award the Fast Response Cutter – Sentinel Class to Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.

On what grounds did you choose to award the contract to Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.? Please provide us with an analysis on the contract bids provided by the three competitors and how each did or did not meet the U.S. Coast Guard's requirements for the Fast Response Cutter contract.

It is important for the federal procurement process and final decision made by the U.S. Coast Guard to be an open and transparent process. We look forward to your prompt response.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Bart Stupak
Member of Congress


Steve Kagen, M.D.
Member of Congress