



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



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House of Representatives  
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Gene L. Dodaro  
Acting Comptroller General of the United States  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Acting Comptroller General Dodaro:

We respectfully request that you thoroughly review and investigate the award of the Fast Response Cutter – Sentinel Class patrol boat by the United States Coast Guard to Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.

On September 26, 2008, the U.S. Coast Guard announced that it had chosen Bollinger Shipyards, Inc. to design and build the Fast Response Cutter – Sentinel Class. Two other finalists in the competition to build the first Fast Response Cutter were Marinette Marine Corporation and General Dynamics.

The Fast Response Cutter would replace the U.S. Coast Guard's Island Class cutters which were built more than 20 years ago. The initial award made by the U.S. Coast Guard is to build the first Fast Response Cutter, with the potential to expand the contract to a total of 34 cutters.

On October 7, 2008, Marinette Marine Corporation filed a formal protest with you against the U.S. Coast Guard's decision. We believe it is appropriate for you to investigate the acquisition process and final decision made by the U.S. Coast Guard. Such a review is an important part of ensuring transparency in the federal procurement process. Determining that the right decision was made by the U.S. Coast Guard is critical to ensuring that the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard receive the best replacement for the Inland Class patrol boats to fulfill their national and homeland security missions.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
Bart Stupak

Member of Congress

  
Steve Kagen, M.D.

Member of Congress