

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 25, 2019

K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Williams:

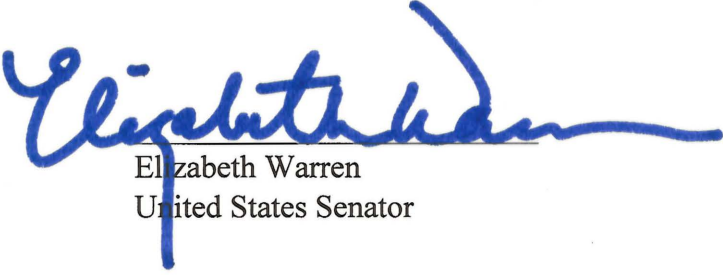
We write to express our support for the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority's (SSA) application for a Sec. 5307 Urbanized Formula Program grant for passenger ferries and terminals.

The SSA is a public instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that was created under state law to provide adequate transportation of persons and necessities of life for the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. The SSA receives no state subsidies and, other than occasional state and federal grants, operations are totally financially supported by the ridership through fare box collections.

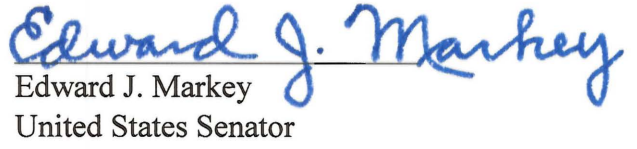
The SSA is in the process of constructing a new ferry terminal at its busiest terminal, located in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. The facility is almost 60 years old and is sorely in need of replacement. In addition to constructing a modern, 10,000 square foot terminal building, the SSA is currently reconfiguring the three existing ferry slips to better accommodate vessel operations and to improve passenger, vehicular, and vessel safety. The project also includes additional bicycle parking, improved access to the local bike path and increased local and regional intermodal access. The new terminal building will be elevated to meet modern flood zone elevation requirements and greatly improve storm water management to become a first-class facility in the region.

In 2018, the SSA transported 2,435,308 passengers and 555,556 vehicles between Woods Hole and Martha's Vineyard. The Woods Hole terminal is heavily used by millions of passengers, both residents and visitors, who will benefit from the new terminal. Federal funding for 20% of the total project cost would ensure that this project is completed in a timely and efficient manner and with minimal effect on the Authority's ratepayers, neighbors, and the local economy. We ask that you give the Authority's application your fair and full consideration.


Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



William R. Keating
Member of Congress