

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2021

The Honorable Timothy Alan Betts
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary,

We write to express our concern regarding the pending sale of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Adak to the Republic of Indonesia. This historic vessel played a critical role coordinating search and rescue efforts and maritime security during 9/11. On September 11, 2001, the Adak arrived first at the scene to take on the role as the on-scene commander to coordinate the evacuation of more than 500,000 people stranded in lower Manhattan after the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center. Until the arrival of the Coast Guard Cutter Tahoma early the next morning, the Adak coordinated the evacuation of the half a million stranded office workers by making sure any vessel in the harbor was directly providing rescue and assistance.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of these terror attacks, we believe that the Adak should be preserved for its historical significance. The men and women who served on the Adak displayed true heroism, and we believe that this sale to Indonesia fails to honor their service. We want to ensure our national security interests are being served and our allies are protected, but we believe there are several possible 110-foot cutters, which could go in place of the Adak, that would be able to fulfill national security obligations to our allies. We have detailed our concerns in the following questions and hope that any final action regarding the sale of the Adak could be delayed until these concerns have been addressed.


- Are the other Island Class Patrol Boats homeported in Bahrain committed to other governments? Could one of those remaining ships, which are all slated to be decommissioned in the coming months, be transferred to the Republic of Indonesia instead?
- If not, several additional 110-foot cutters in the U.S. are also scheduled to be decommissioned. Could one of those be transferred to the Republic of Indonesia instead?
- What are the anticipated costs of refurbishment for the USCGC Adak before transferring to the Republic of Indonesia?
- How do these costs compare to an alternative intact transfer via GSA auction?

- Has the Coast Guard considered the impact and public perception of selling the USCGC ADAK, rather than it serving as a memorial and historic landmark?
- Has the Coast Guard considered how this may be viewed by 9-11 victims, survivors, veterans, and current service members who served in the Global War on Terrorism given its historic role in response to the World Trade Center terrorist attacks committed on Sept. 11, 2001?
- Are there any requirements or limitations for Indonesia's use of the vessel after the planned transfer?
- Does the United States have any roles or responsibilities in the continued maintenance of the USCGC Adak after the planned transfer?
- Do the terms of the planned transfer mandate that the Republic of Indonesia actively utilize the vessel for its stated purpose of counter terrorism?
- Could the terms of the transfer include a provision that would return the vessel back to the United States for historical preservation after the Republic of Indonesia no longer intends on actively using the vessel? If such a provision could be included, what assurances could we receive from the Republic of Indonesia that they would ensure the preservation and maintenance of the Adak in accordance with the same or similar standards to its maintenance while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.
- One of the Coast Guard's missions is marine environmental protection. Has the Coast Guard considered Indonesia's track record regarding marine environmental protection?
- To what extent was the Coast Guard's historian consulted in the decision to transfer the USCGC Adak to a foreign government, specifically Indonesia?
- Does the Coast Guard intend to preserve any 110-foot Island Class patrol boats for historical purposes?
- Has the Coast Guard been approached by any nonprofit organization to take custody of the USCGC ADAK or any other 110-foot Island Class patrol boat following their decommissioning to preserve for historical purposes?
- If the Coast Guard was approached by any nonprofit organization, how was this considered in the process to transfer these ships, specifically the USCGC Adak, to foreign governments.
- Is the Coast Guard or the State Department aware of intended legislation, that was drafted, sent to legal for review, and planned to be introduced establishing a new process allowing for Coast Guard vessels to be transferred to nonprofit organizations seeking to preserve the vessels for historic purposes?
- Is the Coast Guard or the State Department aware that there is a nonprofit organization seeking to preserve the Adak as a 9/11 memorial and museum to honor Coast Guard, military, and life-saving history?
- Is the Coast Guard or the State Department aware that there is a nonprofit organization that has offered to purchase the cutter and take on any costs associated with transferring the ship back to the United States?

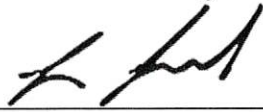
We look forward to hearing back from you regarding our concerns. Thank you for taking time to consider these important questions, which are not only important to us, but

important to the tens of thousands of concerned constituents from across the country who have voiced their desire for the Coast Guard Cutter Adak to come back home to the United States.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress