

April 23, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Southeast
Washington, DC 20593

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretaries Mayorkas and Blinken:

We have become aware that the United States Coast Guard plans to decommission the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) ADAK, a 110-foot patrol boat, on July 14, 2021. Under authorities granted by the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961, the Department of State will then transfer the vessel to the government of Indonesia. As you may know, the CGC ADAK conducted a critical mission on September 11, 2001, in the response and recovery efforts in New York Harbor after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center complex.

On September 11, 2001, the CGC ADAK served as the on-scene commander in New York Harbor to coordinate the evacuation of citizens, transfer firefighters and other rescue personnel, and establish security zones to protect other high valued assets from further attack. For her part in the response, the CGC ADAK received the Secretary of Transportation Outstanding Unit Award. Since 2003, the CGC ADAK has assisted coalition forces in the Persian Gulf, including supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

It is our understanding that a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is interested in obtaining the CGC ADAK or buying the vessel from the General Services Administration. The USCGC Adak Historical Society plans to dock the cutter in St. Petersburg, Florida and turn it into a Coast Guard museum, 9/11 memorial, and education center for disadvantaged youths in the Tampa Bay area.¹ The group is willing to cover costs in transporting the vessel back from Manama, Bahrain, where it is currently homeported. We support this effort, which would highlight the significant accomplishments of the cutter and her crew and serve as a lasting memorial to 9/11 and the Global War on Terrorism.

¹ USCGC Adak Historical Society, <https://uscgcadak.com/>

We recognize the threats facing the United States' interests in the Indo-Pacific region and are supportive of the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, which was included in the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.² The United States is committed to defending our interests in the region. Increasing the readiness and capability of our foreign partners with the use of excess U.S. Coast Guard assets is a worthy goal.

However, given the historical and national significance of the CGC ADAK, especially its response efforts in lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001, we request answers to the following questions:

1. What consideration, if any, did the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security give towards transferring other 110-foot cutters to the Government of Indonesia?
2. Are there other cutters approaching decommissioning that could be transferred to the Government of Indonesia in place of the CGC ADAK?
3. As an alternative, did the U.S. Government consider an agreement with the Government of Indonesia to include a requirement that after the Indonesian Navy decommissions the cutter at a future date, the vessel will be transferred back to the United States to be turned into a 9/11 museum and memorial?
4. What engagement, if any, has occurred with parties interested in converting the CGC ADAK into a museum and memorial?

The FAA's Congressional notification period began on April 2, 2021, but we request that the 30-day time period be extended while your Departments provide answers to these questions. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kathryn Maxwell on the Minority staff at 202-226-2616.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JOHN M. KATKO
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Maritime Security

² Section 1251, FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, P.L. 116-283.



ANDREW GARBARINO
Member of Congress



JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congress



KAT CAMMACK
Member of Congress