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December 16, 2013

VIA EMAIL: Michael.Wade@GSA.gov

Mr. Michael Wade  
Property Disposal Specialist  
U.S. General Services Administration

RE: Surplus USCG Rescue Boat  
COMM Fire Department

Dear Mr. Wade:

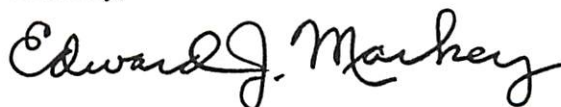
I am writing to you in support of the request from the Centerville, Osterville, Marstons Mills (COMM) Fire Department for a surplus U.S. Coast Guard 25' Safe Boat. The Department is in great need of this unit and I ask for your favorable consideration of their bid.

The COMM Fire Department services a large and diverse area and has been limited in their operations by the age and size of their present units. The Fire District is approximately 26 square miles, with 25,000 year-round residents and a much larger summer population. The Department is responsible for several bays, harbors, and a long coastline. Current COMM Fire Department watercraft cannot operate in seas over 6', however seas in the area can easily exceed that height. Furthermore, this already limited watercraft is pulled out of the water from December to April, meaning the Department's quick response efforts are hampered for much of the year.

The COMM Fire Department must be able to respond quickly to emergencies in its district on its own. It cannot rely heavily on the nearest Coast Guard Stations, as they are 45 minutes away. Additionally, the Department has the only equipped, fully-trained dive team on Cape Cod that drills year round. Their current boats cannot support their dive operation and they are forced to use less dependable commercial and private boats. The 25' Safe Boat would not only allow them to offer a reliable dive operation to their district, but also to the surrounding communities.

Receiving the 25' Safe Boat would go a long way in ensuring that the COMM Fire Department is adequately equipped for emergency response in more diverse conditions, year-round and I fully support their request for this unit. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Christina Pacheco in my Boston Office at 617-565-8519.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey

EJM/cp