



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Maritime  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

18 December 2025

Shawn Danoff  
Senior Director, U.S. Maritime Business Development  
Hanwha Ocean USA  
2100 Kitty Hawk Avenue  
Philadelphia, Penn. 19112

Dear Mr. Danoff:

Thank you for your comment submission in response to the *Federal Register* notice from the Maritime Administration (MARAD) on the renewal of the Maritime Security Program (MSP) application (90 Fed. Reg. 39462–63 (Aug. 15, 2025)). We have reviewed your comments, and note that many of them touch on MSP policy or regulations, which exceed the scope of this information collection, or address separate information collections from MARAD regarding financial reporting. For those comments that do relate to this information collection, this letter intends to respond to those points raised.

First, we note that anytime there is an opening in MSP, MARAD publishes a *Federal Register* notice soliciting applications from qualified entities and setting forth certain priorities and details pertinent to that application. Many of the comments raised in your letter, such as the note about vessel types or the maintenance of business confidentiality, are often addressed in those notices. Regarding electronic submissions, we have accepted them for many years and encourage it when there are openings, while maximizing options for all potential qualified applicants to submit materials. Further, MSP solicitations include points of contact and notices regarding the submission of large files, primarily through the U.S. Department of Transportation's large file transfer system. Regarding financial reporting requirements, those are set by regulation and by MARAD's Office of Financial Approvals, and so exceed the scope of this information collection. Regarding vessel and intermodal capabilities, we provide applicants with sufficient prompts in the application to submit that information, and consider all applications holistically. We also consider intermodal resources when enrolling carriers in the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) as part of the overall review. Regarding other factors raised in your letter, any carrier is free to submit such information at the time of application, and we may consider it, but in accordance with statute and regulation, we must grant primary consideration to the commercial viability and military utility of the vessel under review.

Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Wanerman at 202.366.2306 or by e-mail at [Richard.Wanerman@dot.gov](mailto:Richard.Wanerman@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Hatcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Hatcher".

David Hatcher  
Director, Office of Sealift Support