

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2024

Admiral Linda L. Fagan
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington D.C. 20593

Dear Admiral Fagan,

We write regarding our significant concerns with the reduction of Coast Guard personnel and the potential removal of equipment and vessels at Coast Guard Station (STA) Pittsburgh. This decision will undoubtedly have steep economic costs for southwestern Pennsylvania. We must keep this waterway safe and navigable to protect the region's economy and way of life.

Southwestern Pennsylvania's river system has long been the heart of its economy, with the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers being instrumental to Pittsburgh's founding. As the region continues to cement its future economic position, commerce around our rivers remains a vital tool in its success.

Additionally, STA Pittsburgh plays a significant role in securing our waterways by responding to incidents related to search and rescue operations, enforcing federal laws, and protecting our waters from pollution. The station is responsible for responding to natural disasters, maintaining and repairing navigational aids along the rivers, safeguarding critical infrastructure, and responding to potential threats. Overall, the Coast Guard is responsible for 328 miles of navigable waterways in our region.

In 2020, the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard finalized rulemaking to create a Regulated Navigation Area that ensures certain waters along the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio Rivers at their convergence in Pittsburgh are safe due to the high volume of vessels navigating the area. Any reduction in staffing or equipment would jeopardize the safety of this navigation area.

We urge the Coast Guard to protect the personnel, equipment, and vessels from STA Pittsburgh and request an in-person public meeting with our offices, industry, and other impacted stakeholders to address this issue further.

Sincerely,



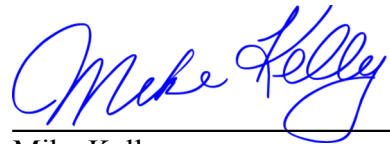
Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress