

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 21, 2006

Mr. Eugene J. Magee
Chief, Division of Reserve Fleet
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Magee:

It has recently come to my attention that the Maritime Administration intends to change the designation of the former USS/USCGC GLACIER from donation-hold to stripping status.

As you know, the mission of the Glacier Society in Connecticut is to provide assistance to the indigenous peoples in the Arctic Basin of the eight circumpolar countries by delivering needed medical care to remote coastal areas. These services will be delivered by the newly restored MV GLACIER GB4.

Due to the unanticipated withdrawal of a substantial pledged donation, the Glacier Society requires an extension of donation status. The organization is close to replacing the funding that it was initially promised. Because of the impressive potential for the renovated GLACIER to serve the 3.74 million people who live near or above the Arctic Circle, I respectfully ask you to extend its donation status. Additionally, GLACIER will serve as an oceanographic platform on which to conduct various levels of environmental research, and as an educational vessel for K-12, undergraduates, and graduate students.

I ask that you lengthen the GLACIER's donation status for one year, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

