

The Honorable Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress  
State of Delaware, At Large  
  
Deputy Whip for Policy



House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

House Foreign Affairs Committee  
Subcommittee on Europe  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
& Intelligence  
House Space, Science, and  
Technology Committee  
Subcommittee on Research and  
Technology

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Mid-Life Upgrades, Maintenance, and Experiential Education Opportunities for Delaware's Flagship Research Vessel, R/V Hugh R Sharp Project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Delaware located at 210 South College Ave, Newark, DE 19716.

This \$1,500,000 request supports Phase Two of critical upgrades to Delaware's oceanographic research vessel, the R/V Hugh R Sharp, extending its service life by 10–15 years. The project advances NOAA priorities by enhancing coastal research, fisheries management, and marine science education while supporting Delaware's leadership in ocean sustainability and resilience.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it avoids the high cost of replacing a \$20 million research vessel by investing in essential upgrades that extend its service life by 10–15 years. It supports the Coastal Zone Management Act's goals by enhancing Delaware's capacity to address critical coastal challenges through science-based stewardship, while also expanding educational access for underrepresented students and strengthening long-term environmental and economic resilience.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. McBride'.

Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress