

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2026

The Honorable Admiral Kevin E. Lunday
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Commandant Kevin E. Lunday,

I write to request the prioritization and allocation of United States Coast Guard resources for the U.S. Coast Guard Station Saginaw River, ensuring a fully operational Coast Guard facility to protect and serve the people of the Great Lakes. This region is a vital commercial and recreational waterway. It supports border security, regional industry, shipping, fishing, and tourism, all of which depend on reliable Coast Guard operations.

Coast Guard Station Saginaw River serves as a critical asset for maritime safety, security, and economic activity in the Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron, playing a pivotal role in the Coast Guard Sector Detroit's operations. Station Saginaw River's missions include Search and Rescue, Maritime Law Enforcement, Homeland Security, Ice Rescue, Recreational Boating Safety, Military Readiness, Navigation and Environmental Response, and oversee hundreds of nautical miles of the Great Lakes, along with the length of the Saginaw River.

As you know, in 2024, Station Saginaw River was downsized due to personnel shortages and resource constraints. However, I recognize recent national trends showing improvements in Coast Guard capacity. The Coast Guard received nearly \$25 billion from the One Big Beautiful Bill, the largest single funding commitment in its history.¹ Additionally, recruitment and retention efforts appear to be yielding positive results, with reported increases in enlistment and workforce levels, including 5,204 active-duty enlisted service members in FY25, 121% of the FY25 target of 4,300.² These gains are meaningful and should enable the service to reassess previously reduced or suspended operations, including at Station Saginaw River.

The need for a fully operational station in the region has only intensified. Since the downsizing, local stakeholders and first responders have documented a rise in maritime incidents throughout the Saginaw River and surrounding waterways. These include over 20 ice rescues conducted by the local sheriff's office this past winter alone. These incidents are exacerbated by longer response times due to the absence of a fully staffed local Coast Guard presence, leaving district residents waiting nearly two hours for aid in some instances. This trend poses growing risks to public safety, economic activity, and environmental protection.

I was pleased to hear directly from Vice Commandant Admiral Thomas G. Allan Jr in the March Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing, who stated that the station would not be closed permanently and that full operations were expected to resume by October 2027.³ However, given recent news of structural damage due to

¹ United States Coast Guard - [U.S. Coast Guard Receives Historic Investment to Rebuild Under President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill](#)

² United States Coast Guard - [Coast Guard Exceeds Fiscal Year 2025 Recruiting Goals, Achieves Highest Numbers Since 1991](#)

thermal expansion at the facility, I am requesting an expedited timeline to ensure safe operations at the Station Saginaw River for the dedicated Coast Guard personnel.⁴

Given the Coast Guard's improving personnel levels and resource availability, I strongly urge you to prioritize restoring full operations at the Saginaw River Station. Doing so would directly address rising incident rates, improve response times, and reaffirm the Coast Guard's commitment to the communities it serves. I appreciate your continued attention to this matter and stand ready to work with you to ensure the Saginaw River Station is restored to full operational status as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

³ House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation - [Force Design or Force in Decline: Reviewing Readiness](#) (42:58)

⁴ Midland Daily News - [Coast Guard Crew Returns After Galley Floor Shifts At Saginaw River Station](#)