

"Dedicated to Excellence . . . People Serving People"

November 28, 2018

Board of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Chairman Don Gaetz

Dear Don,

I am writing this letter of support for Eastern Shipbuilding Group's grant funding request to Triumph Gulf Coast. Eastern Shipbuilding Group is very important economic driver in our community who will be hiring an additional 900 employees to build off shore patrol cutters for the United States Coast Guard. It is also expected to generate as many as 3500-5000 indirect jobs.

Eastern's Nelson Street Shipyard will be dedicated solely to the construction of these vessels and the infrastructure needed to sustain this operation will be located within our City limits. The City has always supported this company and has worked collaboratively in allowing the transplantation of sea grasses in Watson Bayou, as well as providing City right of ways for storm water treatment.

I would greatly appreciate your support of this important request. Job creation is now more critical than ever following the economic devastation caused by Hurricane Michael. Our City and our citizens are ready for positive news and to get moving forward, this would be a great step in that direction.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to call my office at 850-872-3002 or directly at 850-596-2039.

With my sincere thanks,

Greg Brudnicki, Mayor