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## **Senator Donald Humason Presents Massachusetts Marine Trades Association Workforce Solutions Budget Amendment Funding**

It was a big check, really big, as in the size of the transom of a boat. The Massachusetts Marine Trades Association (MMTA) recently was approved for \$100,000 in the 2019 Commonwealth budget to support workforce development and career technical education in the marine trades in Massachusetts. On Monday, Senator Don Humason (*Republican - Second Hampden and Hampshire district, Senate*) joined MMTA Executive Director Randall Lyons, MMTA Immediate Past President and current Board Member Paul Nowak & MMTA Board member Kurt Saunders to celebrate the authorization of the funds to the MMTA at Saunders Boat Livery in Southwick, MA. This budget amendment was sponsored by Senator Humason and supported in a bipartisan manner. Senator Humason has been a strong advocate for the boating industry in Massachusetts for many years as Senate Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Boating Caucus. The Massachusetts Marine Trades Association (MMTA) would like to express our appreciation to Senator Humason for his support and leadership for this very important amendment for the recreational boating industry in Massachusetts.

*“This earmark will help connect our students in the schools with the jobs at the marinas,”*  
**Senator Humason said.** *“We know there are openings in the marine trades industry that need to be filled and students looking for good paying, satisfying jobs. I want to thank my colleagues in the Boating Caucus and the Baker-Polito Administration for supporting this appropriation. It’s all about jobs and workforce all across the Commonwealth.”*

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The recreational boating industry in Massachusetts has an economic impact of over \$2 billion dollars and employs over 11,000 men and women. The industry is currently facing a substantial workforce shortage in Massachusetts and on a national level. Here in Massachusetts there are hundreds if not thousands of jobs currently available and a projection of approximately 3,000 new jobs coming available over the next few years. We have the jobs/careers we just need the people to fill them. This amendment will go a long way in helping the MMTA fill the workforce demands of the boating industry in Massachusetts.

*Established in 1964, the **Massachusetts Marine Trades Association (MMTA)** is the statewide, representative body for over 1,000 marine trades businesses in the Commonwealth that employ over 11,000 men and women. The mission of the Association is to further the interests of the marine trades and the boating public through the promotion of boating, participation in legislation and professional improvement programs.*

*Pictured below and on hand at the ceremony on Monday were from (left to right) MMTA Executive Director Randall Lyons, MMTA Immediate Past President and current Board Member Paul Nowak, Senator Don Humason & MMTA Board Member Kurt Saunders.*

