

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515–4315

March 2, 2026

Admiral Kevin E. Lunday  
Commandant of the Coast Guard  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE STOP 7000  
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Admiral Lunday:

I write to inquire about the status of the United States Coast Guard’s ongoing market research to identify facilities across the country for a new training center to support projected service growth of up to 15,000 personnel. I have been made aware of some alarming reports that the Coast Guard placed an option on land in Alabama and only initiated the initial Request for Information (RFI) on November 10, 2025, as a formality.

As you know, it is highly important that we hold an open and transparent selection process that allows all interested localities to fairly compete with one another. Given the importance of this initiative to both the Coast Guard and the community that is ultimately selected, it is critical that this competition is conducted in an open and transparent way.

This competition must ultimately select the most deserving applicant through a full, fair, and merit-based process. Regions like South Texas are prepared to compete on that basis. The Corpus Christi area—recently designated a Coast Guard City and home to United States Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi, United States Coast Guard Station South Padre Island, and United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Brownsville—has supported Coast Guard operations and border security for decades. Anchored by a strong military presence, including Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and Naval Air Station Kingsville, and backed by respected academic institutions, a skilled workforce, and a military-friendly community, our region understands how to deliver mission readiness while supporting service members and their families. South Texas offers the infrastructure, strategic location, and community commitment necessary to succeed; and deserves serious consideration in a transparent and competitive process.

That is why I was disappointed to learn that the Coast Guard has already placed an option on land that they intend to use for its new training center. To date, it is my understanding that no formal Request for Proposals has been issued. The Coast Guard must follow a clear, established process to ensure fairness and accountability. If a preferred location has already been identified that determination should be communicated immediately.

To better understand the status of this process and the implications for local stakeholders and prospective host communities, I request responses to the following questions by March 13, 2026:

1. What is the status of the Coast Guard's current competition to select a location for a new training center?
  - a. Provide a detailed timeline of the site selection process.
2. Has the Coast Guard placed an option on land in Alabama that they intend to use for a new training center?
  - a. If not, has the Coast Guard placed an option on land elsewhere? If so, where?
3. When will the Coast Guard publish their Request for Proposals?
4. What is the Coast Guard's standard process for awarding contracts or selecting sites for major shore infrastructure projects of this scale?
  - a. Please cite the statutory, regulatory, and/or internal policy authorities that govern this process.
  - b. Has this process been followed in full for the proposed training center?
5. What were the evaluation criteria used in the initial Request for Information (RFI)?
  - a. Were these criteria weighted and will those same criteria be used in the forthcoming Request for Proposals (RFP)?
6. How many communities submitted complete responses to the RFI, and which states were represented?
7. Has the Coast Guard conducted site visits, feasibility studies, or preliminary environmental reviews for any specific location?
8. Was the decision to place an option on land in Alabama (or elsewhere) made before, during, or after the RFI period?
  - a. Who authorized the decision?
  - b. What justification supports taking that action prior to issuing an RFP?
9. Will the Coast Guard commit to conducting a full and open competition consistent with federal acquisition regulations before making a final site selection?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicente Gonzalez', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress