

The Honorable David Rouzer  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

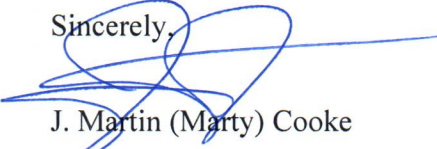
I am writing in strong support of the FY 2027 Community Project Funding request submitted by the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) for the establishment and expansion of its Maritime Cybersecurity Center, an initiative that aligns with the economic, security, and workforce needs of southeastern North Carolina and our nation's coastal infrastructure.

As the District 2 Commissioner of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, I recognize the strategic importance of the Cape Fear region's maritime economy to Brunswick County residents, employers, and public institutions. Our coastal communities, maritime businesses, logistics networks, and port-related activity are deeply connected to regional prosperity. At the same time, cyber threats to maritime systems present growing risks to economic continuity, public safety, and critical infrastructure. UNCW's Maritime Cybersecurity Center would help address these challenges through applied research, workforce development, and partnerships focused on protecting the maritime domain.

This project would strengthen southeastern North Carolina's capacity to prepare students, support employers, and advance practical solutions in an area of rising national importance. It would also reinforce the region's role in supporting a resilient blue economy and a stronger coastal workforce.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for UNCW's FY 2027 Community Project Funding request for the Maritime Cybersecurity Center. Thank you for your continued leadership and for your support of initiatives that advance economic resilience, workforce development, and public safety across North Carolina's 7th Congressional District. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



J. Martin (Marty) Cooke  
District 2

Brunswick County Board of Commissioners  
910-279-0003



March 16, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
7th District of North Carolina  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer,

I am writing to express my strong support for the FY 2027 Community Project Funding request for the University of North Carolina Wilmington's (UNCW) Maritime Cybersecurity Center, to be housed within the University's new Cybersecurity Center currently under construction.

As Executive Director for the North Carolina State Ports Authority, representing two of only seventeen ports nationally designated as a U.S. Department of Defense Strategic Seaport, I can attest to the growing cyber and operational risks facing our nation's maritime and port infrastructure. Ports are critical nodes in global supply chains and military logistics, and disruptions—whether from cyber incidents, system failures, or coordinated attacks—pose direct risks to national security, economic resilience, and defense readiness.

The requested federal investment would support the acquisition of advanced maritime simulation equipment and specialized software to enable hands-on training in vessel operations, port and supply chain security, maritime cyber incident response, and coordinated emergency management. These capabilities directly align with DHS and DoD priorities related to critical infrastructure protection, maritime domain awareness, cyber resilience, and interagency operational readiness. The proposed Maritime Cybersecurity Center would significantly strengthen regional and national preparedness by providing a realistic, cyber-physical training environment that reflects real-world port, vessel, and supply chain operations.



I respectfully request your support for this FY 2027 Community Project Funding request. The Maritime Cybersecurity Center at UNCW will deliver tangible benefits to port security, workforce readiness, and the protection of critical maritime infrastructure.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to the security and economic vitality of North Carolina's 7th District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Clark", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Clark  
Executive Director  
North Carolina State Ports Authority

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
YOUR ADVOCATEOne Estell Lee Place  
Wilmington, NC 28401P (910) 762-2611  
F (910) 762-9765

March 17, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer  
United States House of Representative  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

On behalf of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to express our strong support for the FY 2027 Community Project Funding request submitted by the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) for its Maritime Cybersecurity Center, a strategic investment that will strengthen the economic resilience and workforce competitiveness of southeastern North Carolina.

Wilmington's economy is deeply connected to maritime commerce, logistics, defense, and supply chain operations anchored by the Port of Wilmington and the region's growing blue economy. As cyber threats increasingly target ports, vessels, and maritime industrial systems, the ability to protect these assets has become a critical business and national security priority. UNCW's Maritime Cybersecurity Center directly responds to this need by integrating advanced cyber-physical training, applied research, and industry engagement focused on the maritime sector.

From a business and workforce perspective, this initiative represents a significant opportunity for our region. The Center is designed to provide hands-on, industry-relevant training environments that prepare students and working professionals for high-demand careers in maritime operations, logistics, cybersecurity, defense, and public-sector security. By aligning education and training with real-world port and vessel operations, UNCW is helping ensure that employers across our region have access to a skilled, job-ready workforce.

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce also values the Center's collaborative approach, including its engagement with federal partners such as the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as state, regional, and industry stakeholders. These partnerships help ensure that the Center's activities remain operationally relevant while supporting business continuity, infrastructure resilience, and economic growth for coastal and port-dependent communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to policies and investments that support economic growth and resilience in North Carolina's 7th Congressional District. Please feel free to contact me if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Natalie English  
President & CEO

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce