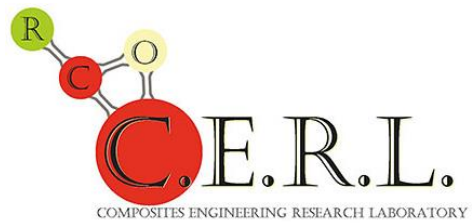




The Maine **Composites** Alliance



April 15, 2020

Martin Grimnes | President  
**Arcadia Alliance**

Dear Martin,

On behalf of the Maine Composites Alliance and the composites industry I want to offer our strong support for the consortium pursuing the development of a Maine-made, highly efficient advanced composites diesel ferry and an advanced electric ferry. As you know, as an industry we have been pursuing this development in Maine for over 15 years. It is especially important at this time due the development of advanced manufacturing techniques to build these vessels at shipyards like Front Street and the development and improvements in the propulsion technology. Across Maine, institutions like the University of Maine and Maine Maritime Academy are developing alternatives to the traditional design technology used in vessels ranging from lobster boats to intracoastal cargo vessels.

In addition to critical transportation to our island and coastal communities, the developments in Maine's aquaculture industry and offshore ocean energy industries will demand a new generation of environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient vessels. **This is the perfect time to bring the development of this new industry to fruition.** With climate change, the growth of both new large-scale aquaculture and offshore wind will be fueling the rapid expansion in the development of Maine's maritime, ocean, advanced materials and boat building industries.

The Maine Composites Alliance (MCA), the Composites Engineering Research Lab (CERL) and the University of Southern Maine have developed training necessary to support the growth of the work force necessary to supply the work force needed to support this new growth opportunity. Working with the City of Belfast, we have developed training already funded by an existing CDBG grant to bring the necessary workforce development to the effort.

Again, well done, move forward! The time has come.

Sincerely,

Stephen Von Vogt  
Managing Director