

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF KANSAS CITY

Kansas City, Missouri

January 7, 1941

Senator Harry Truman Senate Office Building Washington, D. C.

Dear Harry:

Our steel fabricating companies are very much interested in the present program for building 200 ships. During the World War Number One, the Kansas City structural steel companies fabricated steel for the construction of the ships. They also purchased some special machinery at the time for the making of ship rudders. That machinery is still available for use. There are also two other structural steel companies here in Kansas City that are equipped to fabricate steel for these ships.

If the yards for building these ships are located on some of the Gulf ports or on the Pacific coast, our steel fabricating companies at Kansas City and in the mid-west generally will have a much better opportunity to serve them. The freight rate structure would be against our steel fabricating companies if these ships were built on the Atlantic coast or Great Lakes,

At present, our steel fabricating companies are operating at about 60 percent capacity. Here is an opportunity to give employment to a good many men if we can secure some of this business.

I am sending you this information knowing that you may have an opportunity to speak a word for this section with reference to the location of these ship building yards.

Best regards,

George W. Catts,

Executive Manager

GC:VC