

**STATEMENT OF KEN PRZYBYLA  
VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS AT GLC MINERALS  
BEFORE THE  
THE SENATE COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, FISHERIES, CLIMATE  
CHANGE, AND MANUFACTURING  
Friday March 1, 2024**

**“The Importance of Great Lakes Icebreaking to the Regional Economy”**

*The following testimony provides support for expedited acquisition of a second heavy U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) icebreaker for the Great Lakes and the immediate recapitalization of the 140-foot USCG icebreaking tugs.*

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee.

I am Ken Przybyla, the Vice President of Operations for GLC Minerals, one of the terminal operators at the Port of Green Bay.

We are a fifth-generation, Green Bay area legacy business – founded in 1871 as the Hurlbut Calcium and Chemical Company.

Located on the banks of the Fox River in Green Bay, Wisconsin, GLC Minerals has become a leader in mineral manufacturing for agronomy, animal nutrition and industrial applications throughout the upper Midwest.

GLC processes and distributes calcium carbonate, dolomite and gypsum products to agricultural users and manufacturers of glass, plastics and other products.

Our minerals arrive by boat from Great Lakes quarries in the spring and summer months.

Our location in Green Bay allows for optimal transportation of our products to our customers across the Midwest.

The Port and our access to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway are essential to our business and the businesses we serve.

We believe in using waterways for business – shipping is an environmentally-friendly, sustainable and cost-effective mode of transportation.

GLC recently purchased additional land at the mouth of the Fox River – part of the former Pulliam Power Plant site - which will provide room to expand our mineral processing operation. The purchase will result in an additional \$7.5 million investment by GLC over the next five years, creating at least 10 new, full-time jobs.

But, to continue to grow and be successful - which includes reinvesting in our operations - we need to be able to ship and receive products for as long as possible throughout the shipping season.

As you know, ice can form very early in the bay and that directly impacts our ability to ship and receive commodities and product.

And when we talk about impacts to our business, you have to think about impacts that go beyond the business itself.

If we must cut back or close our operations due to ice, it impacts our employees, our customers, and their employees who are relying on our products to continue their operations.

When the movement of goods are curtailed due to ice, it directly impacts our regional economy.

But we also need to co-exist with those who use the waterways for recreation and tourism. And, in winter, that means ice fishing, snowmobiling and other sports.

We know it is not possible to have a year-round shipping season due to heavy ice in the dead of winter.

We also respect those who want to be out on the ice for recreation during the off-season.

But, with a second heavy U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, we can have a longer shipping season and that accommodates everyone and best supports our regional economy.

That is why we support the expedited acquisition of a second heavy U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) icebreaker for the Great Lakes and the immediate recapitalization of the 140-foot USCG icebreaking tugs.

On behalf of GLC Minerals, I thank you for coming to Green Bay to hear our testimony and to learn why this icebreaker is so important to our regional economy.