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**SEC. 3515. AMERICA'S SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION GRANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE HIGHWAYS.**

Section 55601 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and implement a short sea transportation grant program to implement projects or components of a project designated under subsection (d).

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—In order to receive a grant under the program, an applicant shall—

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“(A) submit an application to the Secretary, in such form and manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

“(B) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

“(i) the project is financially viable;

“(ii) the funds received will be spent efficiently and effectively; and

“(iii) a market exists for the services of the proposed project as evidenced by contracts or written statements of intent from potential customers.

“(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An applicant shall provide at least 20 percent of the project costs from non-Federal sources. In awarding grants under the program, the Secretary shall give a preference to those projects or components that present the most financially viable transportation services and require the lowest percentage Federal share of the costs.’’.