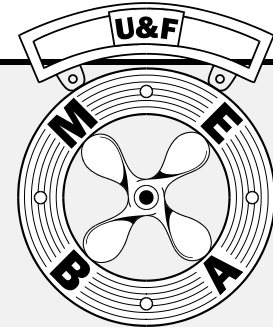


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2017



Congress recently approved a \$36.5 billion disaster relief bill to aid recovery efforts following the recent series of hurricanes as well as the California wildfires. Though a Jones Act opponent spoke out against the statute during debate on the Senate Floor, no action was taken to compromise the Act or injure U.S.-flag shipping.

Along with \$18.7 billion slotted for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund, the bill, which was signed into law, earmarked \$16 billion for flood insurance program debt, \$1.27 billion for Puerto Rico food assistance and \$576.5 million for wildfire recovery assistance. The Senate pledged more aid next month for disaster relief.

During consideration on the Senate Floor, Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) had disparaging remarks for the Jones Act calling for Puerto Rico's permanent exemption from the Act. Sen. Lee, along with Sen. John McCain, earlier introduced a bill (S. 1894) to do just that. Sen. Lee is also co-sponsoring a McCain bill to repeal the Jones Act (S.1561).

Leading up to the Senate vote, earlier in the week Sens. Lee and Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) threatened to hold up the relief bill if Puerto Rico did not receive a permanent exemption. But in the end, a relief package, which was earlier approved by the House, was passed by Senators without language sabotaging the Jones Act.

Fight for the Jones Act!

The Navy League has made it easy to let your lawmakers know how you feel about the Jones Act which is vital for U.S-flag shipping, American mariners and national security. You can access a ready-made modifiable pro-Jones Act letter at <https://tinyurl.com/JonesActLetter>

With a few clicks, you can help counteract the lies and let your Congressional representation know that we need the Jones Act for a strong America!

M.E.B.A. PAF Educates Lawmakers

You can aid the ongoing battle by supporting the M.E.B.A.'s Political Action Fund. The PAF is a key tool to educate lawmakers about the importance of U.S. shipping. It fortifies the M.E.B.A.'s political relationships in Congress, the White House and in State Capitols. The Fund helps our Union succeed in Washington and is crucial in helping to uphold the maritime policies and programs that are frequently under attack by uneducated lawmakers and interest groups. See your local Union hall for more details or make a contribution online via the M.E.B.A. website (www.mebaunion.org) (select "M.E.B.A. Payment Portal").