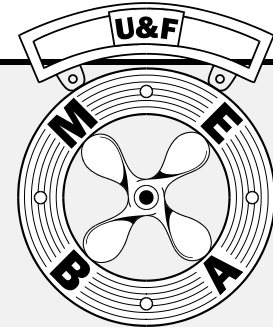


# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*DECEMBER 2017*



A recent rally staged in Washington D.C. spotlighted the needs of Puerto Ricans laid low by the island's debt crisis and hit hard by Hurricane Maria. But as part of the "Unity March," rally-goers scapegoated the Jones Act by directly blaming the statute for the plight of Puerto Rico with their debt crisis and calling for an end to the law that supports American jobs. Literature forwarded by event organizers used false and misleading information regarding the Act repeating the fiction that foreign ships cannot trade with the island without penalty and accusing the Jones Act of strangling their economy.

Such lies about the Jones Act have become commonplace in the wake of Hurricane Maria which has reared the ugly heads of Jones Act opponents doing the bidding of foreign interests. Many well-placed Jones Act lies have been foisted upon the public through poorly-researched news articles and parroted by well-meaning but gullible citizens outraged by the lies they believe. The erroneous claims have also been happily mimicked by interests that would benefit if U.S. maritime jobs were handed to their foreign counterparts. The truth is rarely as "sexy" as a lie – but we urge members to keep up the work to help the truth prevail.

The Navy League issued thanks to the maritime industry for taking advantage of their online link to pepper Congress with pro-Jones Act letters. For weeks, M.E.B.A. has been urging people to visit the Navy League portal that makes it easy to tell your Congressional delegation about how critical the Jones Act is for U.S.-flag shipping.

So far, about 20,000 letters have been sent to Members of Congress to help counteract the wave of anti-Jones Act B.S. We need to keep them coming! Don't let the Average Joe (or Jane) be influenced by the lies. Take five minutes and tell your Congressional delegation how critical the Jones Act is for U.S.-flag shipping. Visit this link for a ready-made (modifiable) pro-Jones Act letter - <https://tinyurl.com/JonesActLetter> Fill in your info and a few clicks later, your entire Congressional representation will take note their constituent is urging them to support the Jones Act.

With all the lies and misinformed anti-Jones Act nonsense that has fouled the waters in the wake of Hurricane Maria, five minutes of your time can really make a difference.