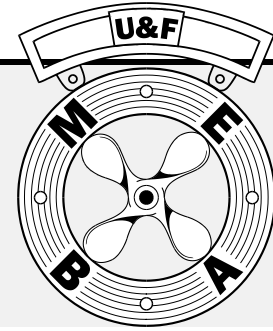


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JUNE 2019



Senate Committee Advances Maritime Security Program (MSP) Legislation

On May 16th, the Senate Commerce Committee, led by Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), approved legislation to reauthorize long-term funding for the Maritime Security Program. Specifically, *the Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act* includes a fix to a budget anomaly in the current MSP while extending the Program for another 10 years – through Fiscal Year 2035.

The MSP is subject to annual appropriations while current authorization for the Program is set to expire in Fiscal Year 2025. The legislation passed the Committee with only one ‘NO’ vote by Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), who recently introduced a bill to repeal the Jones Act. While this development is only one of several throughout the legislative process, the M.E.B.A. continues to work with other maritime unions, employers, and industry advocates to maintain and increase the MSP authorization and funding for future years.

House Subcommittee Approves Bill to Fully Fund MSP

The House Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD), marked up its annual appropriations legislation, which fully funds the Maritime Security Program at \$300 million for Fiscal Year 2020. This funding level is in line with President Trump’s budget request as well as multiple letters of support from a record number of House and Senate members urging full funding for the program. The full House Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up the legislation in early June, where it awaits further consideration.

While the fate of annual appropriations for the federal government have become uncertain in recent times (i.e. government shutdowns, etc.), the M.E.B.A. continues to educate newly elected Members of Congress and garner widespread support of the Maritime Security Program in the U.S. Congress thanks to the help of contributors to the M.E.B.A Political Action Fund (PAF).