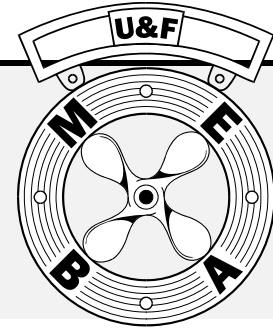


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2020



Hawaii Congressman Introduces 3 Bills to Undermine the Jones Act

On the eve of last year's session of Congress, Rep. Ed Case (D-HI), a longtime opponent of the Jones Act, introduced three bills that would severely weaken the nearly 100-year old statute based on numerous falsehoods regarding the impact of the Jones Act on shipping costs. The Noncontiguous Shipping Relief Act (H.R. 5498), would exempt noncontiguous U.S. jurisdictions (Alaska, Hawaii & Puerto Rico) from the Jones Act. The second, the Noncontiguous Shipping Reasonable Rate Act (H.R. 5499), addresses ocean freight regulation to align freight rates with international levels. The third, the Noncontiguous Shipping Competition Act (H.R. 5500), would rescind the Jones Act "wherever monopolies or duopolies in noncontiguous Jones Act shipping develop." The M.E.B.A. is closely monitoring these bills and continues to educate Members of Congress and the Administration on the importance of the Jones Act to our homeland security and national economy. This is another example of the continued threats against the Jones Act. M.E.B.A. members will recall last summer when Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) introduced two amendments to undermine the Jones Act that were met with fierce opposition by Senators from both political parties and voted down by an overwhelming 4-22 vote.

Former M.E.B.A. Member Urges Retirees to Take 2020 Political Action Fund (PAF) Pledge

Mark Engberg, an M.E.B.A. retiree and former Chief Engineer, is calling on individuals to take the **2020 M.E.B.A. PAF Retiree Pledge**. With his generosity, Mark is matching \$10,000 of his own money for 20 retirees who commit to supporting the M.E.B.A. PAF by contributing \$500 per year for the next 5 years. Collectively, the group will raise \$60,000 by 2025 to advance the interests of our active and retired membership. As you know, contributing to the M.E.B.A. PAF is one of most important things you can do as a member of this Union. The PAF is a vital tool that allows the Union to protect and advance the interests of the U.S. Merchant Marine through the funding of key maritime provisions including the Maritime Security Program, protecting the Jones Act, as well as our health care and pensions. All contributions are voluntary and as a contributor to the M.E.B.A. PAF, you are joining your brothers and sisters in an effort to build our recent successes to protect and strengthen the maritime industry in Congress. Members are encouraged to contribute to the M.E.B.A. Political Action Fund online by visiting the Union homepage at www.mebaunion.org, and selecting "Political Action Fund" to support this important cause.