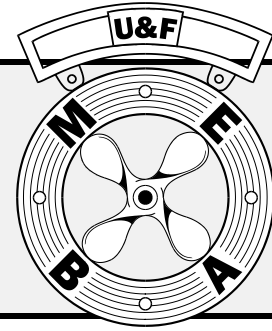

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2016



Sen. John McCain is ratcheting up another attack on the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 - known as the Jones Act - and would like nothing better than to eliminate this statute that reserves vital maritime industry work for Americans. The loss of the Jones Act would pave the way for foreign shipping interests to secure a foothold in the U.S. market while discarding American citizen jobs in this important sector.

As a first step, McCain is hoping to tag an amendment on to the Energy Modernization Act of 2015 that would dispense with U.S.-build requirements for oil and gasoline vessels in the U.S. coastwise trade.

M.E.B.A., the American Maritime Congress and our maritime allies have been briefing Congressional lawmakers on the possible amendment, which may or may not be introduced as soon as this week. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) who introduced the Energy bill (S. 2012), is a fervent Jones Act supporter and has shown disdain for McCain's habitual attempts to compromise American mariners.

McCain reared his head just about this time last year in another attempt to water down the Jones Act. That initiative never got off the ground thanks to efforts by the M.E.B.A. and the maritime coalition that perennially keeps a wary eye out for the Senator's unceasing efforts to weaken U.S.-flag shipping.

M.E.B.A.'s Political Action Fund truly does make a difference on behalf of our members by giving us a stronger voice in the halls of Congress where laws are made.
