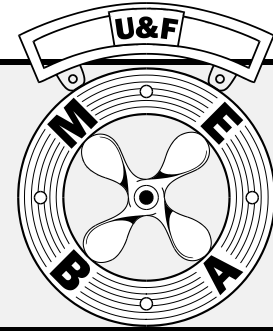


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

APRIL 2017



M.E.B.A. took part in Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) meetings in San Antonio, TX that allowed the 32 unions that form the Executive Committee to focus and strategize on a series of important initiatives. M.E.B.A. is a founding member of the TTD which represents unions in the maritime, aviation, rail, transit, trucking, highway, longshore, and related industries. Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA) was a special guest and speaker at the meeting. The Congressman was part of a robust discussion on issues facing transport workers and the need for infrastructure funding.

“Our nation’s transportation system, and the men and women who build, operate and maintain it, play a crucial role in keeping our economy strong,” Rep. Denham said. “I look forward to working with transportation labor leaders to advance strategic infrastructure investments that will rebuild our vast transportation network and, in the process, drive middle-class job creation in California and throughout the nation.” Rep. Denham is a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

M.E.B.A. President Marshall Ainley, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo and Legislative Director Matt Dwyer attended the meeting for the Union.

TTD Executives later unanimously checked off on a policy statement strongly endorsing cargo preference and trumpeting the U.S. Merchant Marine as critical to a strong national defense. “By letting the fleet wither despite repeated warnings, our government has created a crisis for the American maritime sector and its skilled mariners, and by extension, our national defense,” the statement reads. “Transportation labor calls on the Trump Administration and Congress to take these straightforward and important steps on cargo preference to help simultaneously support our national security, preparedness for humanitarian missions, and fortify middle class jobs.”

The Committee discussed and formulated a number of other policy statements on behalf of its member unions as well, including one concerning so-called right-to-work laws, which were discussed and condemned. Currently, a national right-to-work bill is being touted by some in Congress. Right-to-Work states average lower wages, fewer benefits and higher workplace death than states without such laws. The TTD policy statement, unanimously embraced by the Committee, noted, “at a time when wages are stagnant, this sinister policy reform would make it even harder for working people to secure decent wages that can support a family. It is incumbent upon all Members of Congress who believe in – or work with labor unions – to reject this scheme to undermine basic labor rights.”
