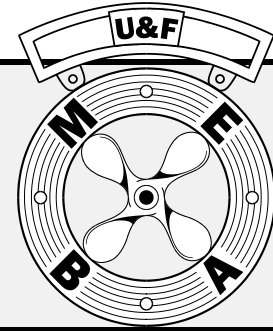


# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*MARCH 2017*



For the eighth year running, M.E.B.A. joined industry advocates for the Maritime Congressional Sail-In that took place on Wednesday, March 1 in Washington D.C. This annual event has proven to be an effective way to convey to Congress the depth and breadth of an industry that is integral to the economic, military and homeland security of our nation.

The industry's presence on Capitol Hill is especially vital this year with the change of administration along with many new Members of Congress. The Sail-In helps establish relationships with Congressional members who may have had only a moderate awareness of maritime issues. It also gives the industry a chance to reinforce the friendships with lawmakers who already have an astute understanding of our issues and already support US flag shipping.

Along with M.E.B.A. officials and staff, one of our rank and file members joined the industry contingent this year. Roland Rexha, who sails with Staten Island Ferry, participated in his first Sail-In and was particularly helpful in helping Members of Congress understand the vital role our industry plays. M.E.B.A. was also represented by President Marshall Ainley, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, Atlantic Coast V.P. Jason Callahan, Political & Legislative Director Matt Dwyer, Legal Director Nils Djusberg, as well as other staff members. American Maritime Congress representatives were also in attendance.

The cross-section of industry representatives divided into 23 groups had 131 appointments with Members of Congress in House and Senate on both sides of the aisle. About 100 industry representatives and participants spent time with almost every newly elected Member of Congress 24 House freshmen and 3 newly elected Members in the Senate – as well as existing and future supporters of U.S. shipping.

The industry groups also had meetings with the majority of the Members on crucial House and Senate Committees that oversee many of our issues including the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee; House Seapower Subcommittee; Senate Seapower Subcommittee; House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and Senate Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee.

Though the work in DC goes on all year long, this is a mass, consolidated effort to solidify support with lawmakers and remind Congress about the importance of our industry to the economy and national security.