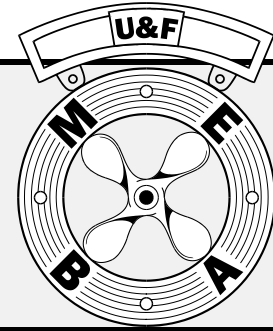


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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A group of 152 Republicans in Congress have called for the repeal of the Jones Act as part of a broad budget outline offered by their coalition, the Republican Study Committee. The RSC is a right-leaning caucus founded in 1973 dedicated toward promoting “a strong, principled legislative agenda that will limit government, strengthen our national defense, boost America’s economy, preserve traditional values and balance our budget.” Led by Congressman Mark Walker (R-NC), the Committee recently issued an outline of their recommended Fiscal Year 2018 budget encapsulating RSC ideals entitled “Securing America’s Future Economy” (SAFE).

Amidst its proposals for reforming the tax code, jettisoning the Davis-Bacon Act and implementing a National Right to Work scheme, the RSC outline calls for the end of “cronyism that uses the power of government to pick winners and losers in the economy, such as the Export-Import Bank and the Jones Act.”

Though the RSC outline serves as a guideline for Conservative thinking, it is not being treated as a blueprint for the budget process. However its provisions will likely be used as talking points during ongoing budget discussion. The release of the RSC proposal comes on the heels of Sen. John McCain’s latest attack against the Jones Act with his newly-introduced bill (S. 1561) that would surrender American mariner jobs to foreign counterparts.