
What is the M.E.B.A. Political Action Fund?



Did you know that every M.E.B.A. member's job is directly influenced by decisions made in Washington? While DC has been often characterized as a "swamp" reliant on political favors and money spent to the benefit of corporate interests including employers, the **M.E.B.A. Political Action Fund (PAF)** is a critical tool to fight back. While the role of money in our political system is an inherently ugly one, the truth of the matter is that the M.E.B.A. PAF is how the Union fights on your behalf to promote the safety and security of your job in the maritime industry. The M.E.B.A. PAF is one of the most critical tools that allows us to educate Members of Congress on the importance of our industry and build long-term relationships when threats come our way.

In 2019 alone, the Jones Act has faced direct viable threats on both Capitol Hill and the White House. In fact, the Trump Administration has come very close toward unilaterally waiving the Jones Act for foreign-flag vessels carrying certain energy products. **Why does this matter?** Because thanks to the help of a last minute coalition of Congressional leaders, various allies of the M.E.B.A. PAF were able to leverage their support for the Jones Act to ultimately convince the President of the devastating impact such a decision would have on domestic maritime jobs. That delegation included **House Minority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA)** and **Senate Chairman of the Maritime Security Subcommittee Dan Sullivan (R-AK)**, who have ardently defended the Jones Act and understand the importance of maintaining a strong U.S. Merchant Marine.

As your voice in Washington, the M.E.B.A. PAF works across party lines and has positioned the Union to establish direct relationships with key players in both political parties. Take this quote from a legislative session of the Senate Commerce Committee just a few months ago:

“There's been many times that Congress has considered waivers to the Jones Act. And why is that important? Because we should continue to be center in the debate of whether we want to protect a Merchant Marine fleet and whether we want to have a well-paid Merchant Marine...I believe in strengthening the Jones Act, not weakening it...” – *Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Committee – July 31, 2019*

The M.E.B.A. PAF is comprised of small, voluntary contributions solely by our members, applicants, retirees and M.E.B.A. employees. As a contributor to the M.E.B.A. PAF, you are joining your brothers and sisters in an effort to build the most effective way to protect and strengthen the maritime industry in Congress. Your contribution to the M.E.B.A. PAF is used to keep policy makers informed and support maritime initiatives.

Lastly, the M.E.B.A. will be working to communicate important developments in Washington that will demonstrate the M.E.B.A. PAF at work. If you would like to learn more about the PAF, talk to your local Union representative or call M.E.B.A. Headquarters for more information. With the challenging political times we are facing, your contribution will ensure the longevity of a strong U.S. maritime industry for future generations as well as a sustainable M.E.B.A. Pension Plan and Medical Plan for current and future retirees.
