

The following comment was submitted by the following 116 individuals on April 17, 2017

As one of the almost 500,000 Americans working in the domestic maritime industry, I write in support of the Notice of Proposed Modification and Revocation of Ruling Letters Related to Customs Application of the Jones Act to the Transportation of Certain Merchandise and Equipment between Coastwise Points (“Notice”).

The Notice will ensure that the Jones Act is interpreted as written. Specifically, the Notice will ensure that only U.S. crewed, U.S. built, and U.S. owned vessels are allowed to transport merchandise between U.S. points. In doing so, the Notice will generate over 3,200 new jobs, increase wages by over \$155 million, and generate \$700 million in economic output.

Additionally, by correctly enforcing the Jones Act, the Notice provides for the domestic shipyard industrial base is fully capable of building, repairing, maintaining, and modernizing the ships and crafts which protect our national and homeland security.

The Notice also honors the commitment that U.S. vessel owners have made as Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) has considered this issue. When CBP announced in 2009 that it was considering revoking flawed letter rulings that had allowed foreign vessels to violate the Jones Act, U.S. vessel owners responded by investing \$2 billion in the vessels that conduct the work covered by the Notice. As such, there are now more than enough vessels to do the work covered by revocation.

In closing, this issue has been studied enough, the Notice is right on the law, will preserve and create U.S. jobs, and provide for U.S. shipbuilding. For these reasons, I urge the Notice be finalized.

Signed:

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