



June 25, 2025

RE: SHIPS for America Act (S. 1541/H.R. 3151)

Dear Senator/Representative:

We write to express our strong support for the bipartisan SHIPS for America Act (S. 1541/H.R. 3151), legislation that would help revitalize the U.S. maritime industry.

For years, our members have been ringing the alarms while the American shipbuilding sector eroded in the face of China's use of unfair trade practices and five-year plans to dominate the global maritime sector. As U.S. shipyards have shuttered, tens of thousands of jobs have been lost, and highly trained dedicated workers have been pushed out of a supply chain that is critical to the future economic and national security of the nation. The SHIPS for America Act reflects a sorely needed dedication to rebuilding American shipbuilding and the trained workforce required to meet the challenges of the future.

In the face of Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) plans to dominate global shipbuilding, logistics and maritime sectors, our unions jointly filed a petition with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, seeking an investigation into the CCP's strategic conduct. USTR's investigation concluded that China's actions and the impacts to the American industrial base and its workers warranted action.

The current Administration has announced the imposition of strong remedies designed to address our growing dependence on China to meet basic shipping and logistics needs.

The SHIPS for America Act will create the statutory framework needed to rebuild and maintain the American shipbuilding and maritime manufacturing long into the future.

By investing in workforce development while incentivizing the construction of commercial vessels in U.S. shipyards, supported by an upgraded robust maritime infrastructure, this legislation will help to revitalize the U.S. shipbuilding industry, provide stability to a sector plagued by boom-and-bust cycles and create thousands of jobs while enhancing our nation's economic and national security. It also recognizes the critical need to expand our mariner workforce to ensure we have the skilled workers on our ships and ensure that we are not dependent on other nations to meet commercial and military needs. Indeed, more than eighty percent of U.S. military cargo transits on commercial vessels and these U.S. flagged ships are critical to meet our nation's needs.

We support the SHIPS for America Act and will work for its swift passage. This legislation is vital to the future of the industry and the workers we represent. We believe that with the right policies in place, U.S. shipbuilding and maritime capabilities can thrive, and the American people can benefit from a newly restored position of American maritime leadership.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate to promote the interests of U.S. workers and industry in shipbuilding, industrial supply chains, and the maritime sector. We urge you cosponsor this critical legislation. We hope to work with you as the process unfolds.

Sincerely,

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Seafarers International Union (SIU)

United Steelworkers (USW)