

THE JONES ACT

The Jones Act is the lifeblood of the maritime industry and a vital tool in protecting the nation's economic and national security.

This is common knowledge among the MTD, its affiliates, the U.S. military and a bipartisan contingent of American lawmakers. Unfortunately, it is not common knowledge outside that group. In fact, there are some – fueled with misinformation and funded by foreign-flag, anti-worker interests – who would like to undo the Jones Act and the benefits that come with it.

Those benefits are many. The Jones Act, which mandates that cargo moving between U.S. ports must be carried on vessels that are flagged, built, crewed and owned American, sustains more than 500,000 American jobs and generates more than \$100 billion in annual economic output. It also provides nearly \$30 billion in annual wages and contributes more than \$11 billion in tax revenue to the country.

Recent reports also have outlined the benefits of the Jones Act. A report by the non-partisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the Jones Act's impact on Puerto Rico dispelled the myth that the law is harmful to consumers and leads to higher shipping costs. Instead, the GAO study found there were considerable reductions in shipping costs and determined, "The (Jones Act) has helped to ensure reliable, regular service between the United States and Puerto Rico – service that is important to the Puerto Rican economy."

Another report by the Lexington Institute, a non-profit, non-partisan think tank, has affirmed the Jones Act's importance to national security. That report found the Jones Act helps protect American interests at home and abroad by helping ensure the nation has a strong force of merchant mariners ready to answer their country's call to duty anytime, anywhere.

Time and time again the U.S. government has called on the nation's merchant mariners to support their country in times of war or crisis and those mariners have answered that call without fail. Not having such a cadre of well-trained, loyal U.S. mariners would be dangerous and potentially disastrous in times of crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO, its affiliates and Port Maritime Councils recognize the importance of the Jones Act to the maritime industry and the country's economic and national security and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MTD, its affiliates and Port Maritime Councils will promote the Jones Act in every possible way, including educating the American public, elected officials and political leaders about the law's significance and benefits and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MTD, its affiliates and Port Maritime Councils will continue to support the Jones Act in every arena and oppose all efforts to repeal or dismantle the law in any way.