



MARITIME TRADES DEPARTMENT

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR and CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

815 16TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-4101
(202) 628-6300 FAX: (202) 637-3989
www.maritimetrades.org

MICHAEL SACCO
PRESIDENT

SCOTT A. WINTER
VICE PRESIDENT

DANIEL W. DUNCAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

AFFILIATES:

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers
and Grain Millers International Union
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers,
Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths,
Forgers and Helpers
Communications Workers of America
International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers
International Union of Elevator Constructors
International Union of Operating Engineers
International Association of Fire Fighters
Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers
International Union, AFL-CIO/GLC
International Association of Bridge, Structural,
Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers
International Longshoremen's
Association, AFL-CIO
International Association of Machinists
and Aerospace Workers
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
United Mine Workers of America
International Union of Allied, Novelty and
Production Workers, AFL-CIO
Office and Professional Employees
International Union
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
of the United States and Canada
Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons'
International Association of the United States
and Canada
United Association of Journeymen and
Apprentices of the Plumbing and
Pipe Fitting Industry of the
United States and Canada
Seafarers International Union of
North America
Sheet Metal Workers International Association
American Federation of State, County
and Municipal Employees
United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber,
Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial &
Service Workers International Union
Transportation - Communications Union, IAM

Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO Urges Rejection of Royce/Engel Amendment No. 55 to HR 1947 Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management (FARMM) Act of 2013

June 18, 2013

The Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO, which is composed of 23 international unions and 21 Port Maritime Councils across the United States and Canada, calls upon the House of Representatives to reject Amendment 55 sponsored by Representatives Royce and Engel to HR 1947, the FARMM Act, because it would kill thousands of American jobs and undermine a successful program that has worked for nearly 60 years.

Amendment 55 would cripple the PL-480 Food for Peace Program, America's premiere foreign aid program. The Royce/Engel amendment would effectively take 45% of PL-480's already shrinking budget and ship that money overseas with little accountability and no domestic benefit. Today, Food for Peace funding supports American farmers and American mariners by purchasing U.S. crops and shipping them on American-citizen crewed U.S.-flag ships

In Fiscal Year 2012 alone, the Food for Peace Program shipped just under a million tons of American food aid aboard dozens of U.S.-citizen crewed U.S.-flag vessels to people in need around the world. Overall, PL-480 helps sustain about 44,000 jobs to Americans in the agricultural, transportation and maritime communities.

In addition to the domestic benefits, PL-480 ensures America's armed forces have a readily available, well-trained contingent of merchant mariners to crew U.S.-flag vessels needed to supply troops wherever and whenever needed. American merchant marine ships carry the bulk of American supplies to our war fighters overseas. That is why the U.S. Transportation Command has stated, "The movement of U.S. international food aid has been a major contributor to the cargo we have moved under cargo preference law that our U.S. commercial sealift industry depends upon. Any reductions will have to be offset in other ways to maintain current DOD sealift readiness."

The Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO urges rejection of Amendment 55 to the FARMM Act and stands ready assist in any way possible.

##