



**James L. Henry
Chairman**

July 16, 2015

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 1678 -Global Positioning System (GPS) Legislation

USA Maritime is a coalition of ship owning companies, maritime labor organizations and maritime trade associations. For more than 200 years, our industry has contributed to U.S. economic vitality, helping to sustain America's position as a global power. The U.S.-flag maritime industry has continuously supported the security and diplomatic objectives of the United States government – from delivering food aid and emergency supplies to impoverished nations, to providing a supply line by sea of crucial equipment and supplies to our troops around the world.

We strongly support the creation of a backup global positioning system (GPS). It is imperative that our vessels know their exact positions at all times. While navigating the world's oceans, even the shortest GPS black out period creates an emergency situation. In fact, vessels have encountered unexpected GPS black outs requiring emergency measures to navigate safely through heavily trafficked sea lanes.

The relative weak nature of GPS signals today makes corruption, degradation and access denial possible. An enhanced long-range, land-based backup for GPS should be developed as soon as practicable to secure the safety of U.S. commercial vessels, crews, and their cargoes, and to enhance the national security of the United States.

We applaud your efforts and offer our support for H.R. 1678.

Sincerely,

James L. Henry
Chairman