



Statement of Support for House Version of the Farm Bill HR2 on Food Aid Provisions

26 July 2018

The undersigned members of USA Maritime strongly support the House's version of the Farm Bill reauthorizing our nation's food aid programs, including Food for Progress, Food for Peace, and McGovern-Dole Food for Education. America's in-kind food donation programs have kept our nation at the forefront of global humanitarian assistance for more than 60 years. Shipped from the Heartland to ports overseas in vessels flying the American flag, donated American commodities stamped "From the American people" act as ambassadors, spreading goodwill from our country and helping to address the root causes of international terrorism and instability.

The longevity and stability of these programs are due in large part to the broad-based support from the many sectors of the economy they stimulate. Diverse groups of American workers benefit from the direct and economic ripple effects of these programs, all of which have helped ensure sustained political support. These groups include farm workers, food processors, domestic inland transport workers, port and terminal workers, the U.S.- flag maritime industry including trained citizen-mariners, and many more Americans in the broader economy. Thanks to our nation's cargo preference laws, these programs provide essential cargoes to help ensure the U.S. Merchant Marine is ready to answer the call when needed by our nation, saving the Defense Department billions it would otherwise have to spend to ensure adequate sealift capability to execute our foreign policy objectives and to maintain our political and economic independence as a trading nation around the globe.

Because the House version of the Farm Bill preserves the current status of our food aid programs as in-kind donations of US-grown commodities, the members of USA Maritime support the House-passed version of the Bill over the Senate version.

American Maritime Congress	Liberty Maritime Corporation
American Maritime Officers	Maersk Line Limited
American Maritime Officers Service	Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
American President Lines LLC	Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier LLC	Sailors' Union of the Pacific



Argent Marine Operations, Inc.

Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC

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International Organization of
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Schuyler Line Navigation Company, LLC

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Seafarers International Union

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