

Brian Schoeneman
Chair



September 2, 2026

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas Suozzi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205150

Dear Congressman Fitzpatrick and Congressman Suozzi,

On behalf of USA Maritime, the coalition of carriers, maritime labor and maritime industry trade associations representing the international sailing U.S.-flag commercial fleet, I want to express our thanks and our strong endorsement of H.R. 10153, the American Mariner Tax Fairness Act.

Ensuring that American mariners remain on a level playing field with their foreign competition has been a key part of our industry's approach to maritime policy. This bill will help provide greater parity by providing American mariners with similar tax treatment as mariners on foreign flag vessels have been enjoying for decades, if not longer. The bill provides them with similar treatment as other Americans working internationally have long enjoyed.

We were pleased to see this approach reflected in the Administration's recently released Maritime Action Plan.

The entire maritime industry has been encouraged by the significant level of commitment shown by the Administration and Congress to tackle the difficult issues we face keeping the U.S-Flag competitive internationally. We remain committed to the federal government's long-held goal of being able to carry a significant portion of our nation's foreign commerce.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter, and we are heartened by the bipartisan support your bill has already garnered. As always, we look forward to working with you and your colleagues to see this bill enacted into law.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of USA Maritime if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Brian Schoeneman
Chair