C. JAMES PATTI
Chairman

USA MARITIME STATEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF REAR ADMIRAL ANN PHILLIPS AS MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

The USA Maritime Coalition congratulates Rear Admiral Ann Phillips on her nomination to serve as Maritime Administrator in the United States Department of Transportation. The USA Maritime Coalition represents the undersigned shipping companies operating U.S.-flag vessels in our nation's foreign trades, the maritime labor organizations representing licensed and unlicensed American mariners who crew these vessels, and their related maritime associations.

We believe Rear Admiral Phillips has a proven track record on issues critically important to the future viability of the U.S.-flag maritime industry. Her expertise on matters relating to climate change is especially important as our industry, already the most energy efficient and environmentally friendly mode of cargo transportation, strives to do more to reduce emissions and to preserve our oceans for future generations.

The U.S.-flag maritime industry is at a critical juncture. Faced with significant and unfair competition from foreign flag-of-convenience vessels and foreign state-owned and state-controlled fleets, the U.S.-flag vessels operating in U.S. foreign trade carry less than 2 percent of the cargo entering and leaving our country. Unless this issue is addressed, our country will continue to experience a decline both in the number of U.S.-flag vessels and the civilian maritime manpower needed to crew the government and privately-owned vessels available to be called into service in time of war or other emergency.

As the head of the Federal Agency charged with the promotion of the U.S.-flag merchant marine, the Maritime Administrator will play a key role in ensuring that existing maritime programs are implemented and funded and that new programs are developed to increase the share of cargo carried by U.S.-flag vessels, increase the number of vessels operating under the U.S.-flag and increase the number of jobs available to licensed and unlicensed merchant mariners who have the training necessary to meet Department of Defense requirements.

We are confident that Rear Admiral Phillips' Naval background will enable her to provide the leadership that the Maritime Administration, our industry and our country need to ensure the U.S.-flag fleet provides the commercial sealift readiness capability relied upon by the Department of Defense to enhance the military, economic and homeland security of the United States.

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American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier, LLC
American President Lines LLC
Bold Ocean LLC
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Keystone Shipping
Liberty Maritime Corporation
Maersk Line, Limited
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Maritime Institute (MIRAID)
Patriot Contract Services
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Seafarers International Union
Transportation Institute
U.S. Ocean
Waterman Logistics, Inc.

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