

John Riddle

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**RE: SL7expo Letter of Support**

To whom it may concern,

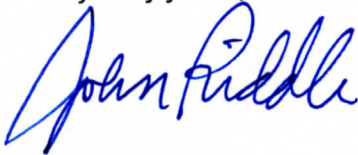
Having been involved in the Maritime Industry my entire adult life it has been personally very painful to witness it continuing to dwindle over the years. It is alarming to me that this critical component of our economy has not been adequately recognized as fundamental to our national security. This is why the SL7expo project so strongly appeals to me.

For me, the SL7 is not only a historically and technologically important vessel. I have a personal connection having served as First Assistant and later as a Chief Engineer on the Sea-Land McLean/T-AKR 293. That is why I am so excited to have the opportunity to make a difference by working with several of my colleagues engaged in the creation of a national maritime education and exposition center, now called "SL7expo". This project seeks to provide national level support in the promotion of commercial maritime and intermodal commerce, career development, recruitment and education by investigating the preservation of an SL-7 RO/RO container vessel as the centerpiece of a Smithsonian level national maritime educational center.

We need the Federal Government to take immediate action in this regard and I strongly support SL7expo's efforts and urge our federal government to provide the support needed to make this effort a reality.

With a commitment by the Federal Government to provide the financial foundation, I also pledge my in-kind and financial support in this cooperative effort to strengthen the country and the maritime industry.

Very truly yours,



John Riddle