

SIU



AFFILIATED WITH THE SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA • AFL-CIO

SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION ATLANTIC • GULF • LAKES AND INLAND WATERS

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March 25, 2025

SL7 Expo
c/o Rik van Hemmen, PE
Martin & Ottaway, Inc.
620 Shrewsbury Ave.
Tinton Falls, NJ 07701

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UIW NATIONAL DIRECTOR

RE: Support for SL7 Expo

To Whom it May Concern:

The Seafarers International Union – Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters, SIUNA (“SIU”), a maritime union representing Unlicensed personnel employed aboard U.S.-flagged Jones Act vessels, hereby fully supports the SL7 Expo.

The SIU has been monitoring maritime industry demands for a steady flow of prospective mariners and has been alerted to a downward trend in new recruits.

The SIU currently has an “all handson deck” recruiting initiative in place and the SL7 Expo will foster needed attention to our effort to bring awareness of career opportunities available to Unlicensed personnel.

In addition to bringing needed attention to maritime careers the SL7 Expo will preserve a piece of maritime history. Historically, the SIU has provided contracted unlicensed personnel to man these vessels for decades. The SL-7 container vessel is a great example of commercial shipping vessels and would provide a great source of historical record.

In closing, this initiative ensures that an important piece of our history is well preserved for years to come while also garnishing the interest of prospective mariners.

Sincerely,

David W. Heindel
President

DWH:GT:dms

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