



May 1, 2025

RE: SL7expo Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been the Senior Vice President of Engineering, Maintenance and Security at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum for 20 years and a retired Chief Engineer in the US Merchant Marine. I was also on the Board of the Historic Naval Ships Association(HNSA) for 13 years and have extensive knowledge of what it takes to operate and maintain museum vessels. HNSA represents over 100 museum ships around the world so we communicate and collaborate regularly amongst the fleet to learn best practices, common problems, mistakes, successes and concerns.

I have reviewed the preliminary SL7expo proposal to create a national maritime education and exposition center to feature historic ships and promote commercial maritime and intermodal commerce, career development and education. It is a sound business plan and proposal and I feel this might be the missing "key" in the maritime museum fleet. Every Museum ship is focused on that ship's terms in service, wars and battles they fought in and the service of the men and women who served. All noble endeavors. The SL7 Fast Sealift Ship(soon to be retired) would of course do all of that from a commercial maritime perspective, but could also educate the public and inspire our youth about the critical necessity of the nation having a strong and robust maritime fleet. Having a 150,000 sf hangar space for education, exhibits, recruiting, displays and, importantly for a Not-for Profit, revenue generating events is a huge advantage.

I strongly urge you to support the SL7expo's efforts. I believe this project would be a huge asset to the Port of Baltimore and the regional economy and a superb way to promote the maritime industry.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at 347-287-1278

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Woods".

Matt Woods
Senior Vice President, Engineering, Maintenance and Security