

RE: National Maritime Education and Exposition Center

To Whom it May Concern:

The World Shipping Council (WSC) is the primary trade association representing the international liner shipping industry. Our industry encompasses container shipping and the transportation of vehicles in specialized vehicle carrier vessels.

WSC reiterates its continued support for a strong, vibrant and dynamic U.S. maritime sector. A strong U.S. maritime sector will have positive effects across the entire maritime industry.

Equally important is the availability of qualified seafarers – without them the maritime industry will flounder.

WSC therefore strongly supports the SL7Expo initiative aimed at establishing a National Maritime Education and Exposition Center for the promotion of maritime and intermodal commerce, career development, and public education on a national level.

A key element of the SL7Expo initiative includes the preservation of an SL-7 RO/RO container vessel that would become a key feature of the envisaged national maritime education facility in order to highlight the U.S. maritime industry's historical, economic and strategic significance. We especially welcome the inclusion of such a foundational vessel in the initiative that embodies both key segments of WSC's advocacy – container ships and vehicle ships. In so doing the initiative will also highlight the historic role of the United States in regard to innovation that for generations has underpinned the development of the U.S. maritime industry and its national and international role – a role we believe will be further strengthened with the SL7Expo initiative.

Sincerely,



President & CEO
World Shipping Council