



June 9, 2025

Subject: Support for SL7Expo/National Maritime Education and Exposition Center

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the members of the Chamber of Shipping of America, the US shipowners association, I am writing to express our strong support for the SL7Expo project. Our members are owners, operators and charterers of large oceangoing ships, both US and non-US flag, and have a vested interest in projects intended to revitalize the US flag fleet, US shipbuilding capacity and the maritime work force.

For too long, the US maritime industry and its workforce have been woefully neglected with the result that today we have far less US flag vessels and US mariners than ever before. Fortunately, this Administration and Congress have set goals to revitalize this critical sector of the US economy in order to make the United States the maritime power it once was for both national security and economic reasons via a recently published Executive Order and the now introduced SHIPS for America Act.

A significant part of this effort, to be successful, must necessarily spotlight the importance of the maritime industry to the US, the benefits of serving in this industry and the incredible employment opportunities it can provide both afloat and ashore. To accomplish these goals, public outreach is critical so that the American public better understands the critical nature of our industry and the opportunities it can provide.

We strongly support the initiatives of the SL7Expo initiative led by a group of experienced industry professionals which will establish a National Maritime Education and Exposition Center, housed in a preserved SL-7 RO/RO container vessel, and which will promote commercial maritime commerce, mariner career development and educate the public about the US maritime industry.

As Executive Branch and Legislative branch initiatives move forward, we strongly support the SL7Expo's vision and urge the federal government to provide the funding necessary to make this vision a reality. We stand ready to work with our government colleagues to secure funding for this program which will fill a much needed gap in public outreach, benefit the maritime industry and the United States as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy J Metcalf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kathy J Metcalf
President