



North American Marine Environment Protection Association

NAMEPA

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the [North American Marine Environment Protection Association \(NAMEPA\)](#), I am proud to express our strong support for the SL7Expo project and its vision to create a National Maritime Education and Exposition Center.

For nearly two decades, NAMEPA has worked at the intersection of commerce, conservation, and community, building public awareness of the maritime industry's critical role in global trade, environmental stewardship, and workforce development. The SL7Expo initiative complements these efforts by providing a national platform to showcase maritime commerce, highlight career opportunities both at sea and ashore, and connect the public to the industry's essential contributions to our economy, security, and sustainability.

Recent federal actions, including the Executive Order on maritime revitalization and the SHIPS for America Act, reflect a renewed focus on strengthening America's maritime capacity. Achieving these objectives requires more than policy. It requires public engagement and education on a national scale to appreciate the value and opportunities the industry provides. The proposed Center, anchored by a preserved SL-7 RO/RO container vessel, will deliver exactly that: a tangible and inspiring connection to our maritime heritage and future.

NAMEPA enthusiastically supports the SL7Expo vision and urges the federal government to provide the funding necessary to bring this initiative to life. We stand ready to partner in amplifying its educational, workforce, and environmental messages, ensuring the next generation understands both the legacy and limitless potential of the maritime industry.

Sincerely,

Carleen Lyden Walker

Co-Founder/CEO

IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador

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