



OCEAN SHIPHOLDINGS, INC

16211 Park Ten Place Houston, Texas 77084

PHONE 281-579-3700

FAX 281-579-3329

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

21 April, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the SL7 Expo project. The US Maritime Industry is facing a severe shortage of qualified marine personnel and the employment of these unique vessels in an effort to foster awareness of the maritime industry; provide education about the maritime industry for a US Public that has little knowledge of our dependence on ships and shipping for the everyday goods that they use in their lives; and, for recruitment into the various divisions of the maritime industry, including shipbuilding/repair, inland, offshore and deep-sea employment is a needed and necessary objective.

Our company has operated under contract with the Maritime Administration (MARAD), two (2) of the SL7/T-AKR FSS vessels, SS ALGOL & SS CAPELLA, for a number of years and we understand the importance of such an effort and the utility of using these vessels as described above. As they are being retired by MARAD, they are becoming available for this purpose.

We as a company rely on new people coming into our industry to crew the ships under our management, repair them as needed and to build replacements for them as they age out. The United States has much the same requirements for National Security and emergency response. Without new people entering our industry, there are serious consequences for the security of our country as well as for the viability of US flag ship operators.

The use of such iconic vessels to assist in bringing new folks into the industry and in educating the general public on the strong maritime connection that our country has with the rest of the world, is fundamental to the continuation of the US flag maritime industry and the support of US national interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, circular scribble followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

Capt RV Sheen
President / COO
Ocean Shipholdings, Inc.