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August 6, 2025

Subject: Endorsement of the SL7 Expo Proposal

Dear SL7expo Steering Committee:

On behalf of the OPA90 Forum, we write to express our support for the SL7 Expo Proposal dated November 9, 2024. Our organization has long advocated for maritime safety, environmental stewardship, and the advancement of programs that safeguard both our waters and the people who work in this essential sector. We believe the proposed SL7 Expo embodies these objectives by fostering educational opportunities, preserving vital maritime history, and showcasing the dynamic innovations that continue to shape the maritime industry.

The concept of transforming an SL-7/TAKR RO/RO container vessel into a national educational and historic center directly aligns with our Forum's commitment to forward-looking initiatives that emphasize both sustainability and industry growth. By illuminating the remarkable shift to containerization, the project underscores the importance of intermodal careers for future mariners and highlights the technological and operational strides that have evolved from the era of single-hull tankers to the robust container fleets of today.

Critically, the SL7 Expo promises to bring communities together, bridging the gap between maritime operations, policymakers, and the general public. Through hands-on displays, interactive exhibits, and collaborative training spaces, it will inspire the next generation of professionals who will uphold the safety and efficiency standards established under OPA90.

We wholeheartedly endorse the SL7 Expo Proposal and look forward to supporting your endeavors in every way possible.

Sincerely,

Douglas Martin
Chair, OPA90 Forum