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To whom it may concern:

I'm all in on the SL7Expo project and its plan to create a National Maritime Education and Exposition Center.

I've spent years working to get people to see how vital the maritime industry really is — not just for moving cargo across the globe, but for protecting our oceans and creating good, solid careers on land and at sea. The SL7Expo hits all of those notes. It's a way to put maritime right in front of the public, show off the work it does, and open doors for the next generation.

Washington's already signaling it's ready to invest in our maritime future — with things like the Executive Order on maritime revitalization and the SHIPS for America Act. But let's be honest: policy alone isn't enough. People need to *see* it, *touch* it, and get inspired by it. That's what this Center, with a preserved SL-7 RO/RO container ship at its heart, would deliver. It's living history tied directly to the industry's future.

I strongly back the SL7Expo and urge the federal government to help fund it. I'll be there to help champion its message — education, jobs, and environmental responsibility — and to make sure the next generation knows the story and the promise of America's maritime industry.

Kind regards,

Paul Hankins
Maritime Salvor