



To Whom it May Concern,

**National Maritime Education and Exposition Center**

On behalf of ABS, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposal to create an expo center centered around a retired SL7/TAKR RO/RO container vessel. This initiative, spearheaded by the SL7expo study group, aims to preserve a significant piece of maritime history while addressing the urgent need to attract the next generation of intermodal workers and professionals.

Containerization has revolutionized global trade, dramatically reducing the cost of consumer products and raising living standards worldwide. Despite its profound impact, the public remains largely unaware of this innovation and the career opportunities it presents. The proposed expo center would serve as an educational and historical hub, showcasing the evolution of intermodal containerized shipping and its ongoing significance.

The SL7/TAKR RO/RO container vessel, with its vast interior volume and ramp-accessible decks, is ideally suited to serve as the core of this center. It would not only highlight the vessel's historical importance but also provide an engaging and informative experience for visitors. The center would offer a comprehensive view of the scale, technology, and career opportunities within the intermodal and commercial maritime industries.

The collaboration between maritime professionals and the government in this endeavor is commendable and essential for its success.

ABS wholeheartedly supports this proposal and believes it will have a lasting positive impact on the maritime industry. We urge you to consider this proposal favorably and provide the necessary support to bring this vision to fruition.

Sincerely,

John McDonald  
**President and COO**