





ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND PILOTS

3720 Dillon Street  Baltimore, Maryland 21224  Voice (410) 276-1337  Fax (410) 276-4197  info@mdpilots.com

December 27, 2024

Re: SL7expo Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

I represent the 66 men and women of the Association of Maryland Pilots who are charged with the safe, efficient, and reliable navigation of all commercial shipping engaged in foreign trade in the State of Maryland. As Maryland's State-licensed Pilots, we play an essential role in the development, maintenance, and operation of Chesapeake Bay shipping channels in partnership with federal, state, and local governments, as well as industry.

Please accept these comments as our formal support for the SL7expo proposal for the Port of Baltimore.

The SL7expo proposal would create a national maritime education and exposition center to feature historic ships and promote commercial maritime and intermodal commerce, career development, and education. Six historic vessels are already berthed in Baltimore, of which three are actively looking for a permanent home (*Liberty Ship SS John W. Brown*, *Nuclear Ship NS Savannah*, and the sailing ship *Pride of Baltimore II*). A critical seventh ship would be an SL7 Fast Sealift Ship (soon to be retired) with its 150,000-sf of hanger space available for educational, recruiting, and community displays and events.

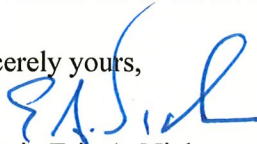
I strongly urge you to support the SL7expo's efforts, ask our federal government to provide the support needed to make this proposal a reality, and take immediate action.

With a commitment by the Federal Government to provide the financial foundation, the Association of Maryland Pilots will provide financial and in-kind support in a cooperative effort to strengthen the entire maritime industry and DOD services.

We believe this project would be a huge asset to the Port of Baltimore and the regional economy. And we know Baltimore is in a better position to support this project than any other port.

If you have further questions, please contact me at 410.276.1337 x 1.

Sincerely yours,



Captain Eric A. Nielsen
President

