



NATIONAL MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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09/03/2025

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On behalf of the National Maritime Historical Society, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the SL7 organization's initiative to preserve and showcase the historic SL7/TAKR RO/RO container vessel through the proposed expo center.

Containerization has revolutionized global trade, dramatically reducing costs and elevating standards of living worldwide. It continues to sustain millions of high-wage jobs across the globe. However, the public's limited awareness of this technological achievement and its associated career opportunities have led to severe labor shortages in the maritime and intermodal industries. This shortage poses a significant national security concern and urgent need for innovative educational and outreach initiatives.

The SL7 Expo, a nonprofit study group composed of maritime professionals, aims to create a dynamic educational and historic center centered around a retired SL7/TAKR RO/RO vessel. This vessel's unique capabilities, combined with its vast interior volume and accessible decks, make it an ideal focal point for exhibits that highlight the history, technology, and career opportunities of intermodalism.

This project aligns closely with the mission and goals of the National Maritime Historical Society, which seeks to preserve and interpret the maritime history of the United States while also making maritime history relevant in today's world. We are committed to fostering an understanding of how maritime innovations have shaped our nation's development and continue to influence modern global commerce. Our organization actively works to connect historical achievements, like containerization, with contemporary industry challenges and future opportunities.

There is a critical need to preserve the story of the monumental shift from breakbulk to containerized shipping—a transformation that fundamentally changed global commerce and continues to influence the lives of billions. Currently, no single institution comprehensively documents or showcases this historic evolution. The proposed vessel and exhibition would fill this void, providing a tangible connection to maritime innovation and encouraging future maritime professionals. It would serve as a living

exhibit that combines history, education, and industry relevance, directly supporting our goals of increasing maritime awareness and fostering the next generation of maritime leaders.

The National Maritime Historical Society wholeheartedly supports the SL7 organization's vision. We believe that this initiative offers a cost-effective, impactful solution to foster public awareness, celebrate maritime heritage, and inspire future maritime professionals.

We commend the effort and dedication of SL7 and look forward to seeing this historic vessel serve as an educational beacon of maritime heritage and relevance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Catherine Green
President
National Maritime Historical Society