



Liberty Nautical Education Center

Sponsored by Sea Dart II Inc.

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To: U.S. Maritime Administration
From: CAPT. James R. Zatwarnicki Jr, Committee Chair, Sea Scout Ship 228
Re: SL7 Expo Proposal
Date: 10 January 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

The Liberty Nautical Education Center is an organization that seeks to inspire and educate tomorrow's leaders through maritime oriented programs. We pride ourselves in being able to help young men and women find a path to successful careers in the maritime industry. Therefore, we have a significant interest in the health and viability of commercial maritime and intermodal transportation.

The commercial maritime industry and intermodal transportation network are critical components of the global economy. Because of this, we believe that a viable US maritime industry and cadre of trained mariners is an indispensable component of our national defense and economic strength. Moreover, the current mariner shortage presents serious risk to the sustainability of our commercial maritime industry and our national defense sealift capabilities. In our effort to recruit and develop the next generation of mariners and industry leaders to meet these needs, we seek to develop partnerships with organizations like SL7expo.

SL7expo is a group of industry professionals that is engaged in the creation of a national maritime education and exposition center to provide national level support in the promotion of commercial maritime and intermodal commerce, career development, and education. The preservation of an SL-7 RO/RO container vessel as the centerpiece of a Smithsonian level national maritime educational center would provide an invaluable resource to us to increase our community outreach and educational capabilities.

We strongly support SL7expo's efforts and urge our federal government to provide the support needed to make this effort a reality. With federal support, SL7expo has the potential to share an important story about our industry and provide a critical point of engagement with the public. We look forward to being a partner to SL7expo in promoting and growing our maritime industry.

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