

August 13, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC, 20250

Dear Secretary Mullin, Secretary Hegseth, Secretary Wright, and Secretary Rollins:

The undersigned individuals write to commend President Donald Trump's decision to suspend enforcement of the century-old Jones Act for covered commodities for an additional 90 days rather than allow his waiver to expire.

The Jones Act requires cargo shipped domestically over water to be carried on vessels that are U.S.-built, owned, and crewed, even if more affordable and efficient options are available. However, U.S. law allows the Secretary of War to request a waiver of the Jones Act when "necessary in the interest of national defense to address an immediate adverse effect on military operations."¹

The U.S.-Iran engagement and resulting energy disruptions underscore the ongoing importance of Jones Act waivers. President Trump's actions have permitted more than 200 voyages since March, allowing vessels to deliver goods Americans rely on, including gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel, crude oil, and fertilizer.² Allowing this beneficial waiver to end would not have been in the national interest. Although the extended waiver adds a new requirement for consultations between the Maritime Administration and the Pentagon, we applaud the Administration for not allowing it to expire.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



National Taxpayers Union
Pete Sepp
President



American Commitment
Phil Kerpen
President



Americans for Prosperity
Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer



American Energy Alliance
Tom Pyle
President



Americans for Free Markets
David Ibsen
Executive Director



Americans for Tax Reform
Grover Norquist
President



Bluegrass Institute
Caleb Brown
Chief Executive Officer



Center for a Free Economy
Ryan Ellis
President

¹ U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, [Waiver of the Navigation Laws - 46 U.S.C. § 501](#)

² [U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, 501c Waiver Report, August 7, 2026.](#)



Center for Freedom and Prosperity
Daniel J. Mitchell
President



Center for Transportation Advancement
David Ozgo
Executive Director



Citizen Outreach
Chuck Muth
President



Competitive Enterprise Institute
Ryan Young
Senior Economist



Consumer Choice Center
James Czerniawski
Head of Emerging Technology Policy



Exiled Policy
Jason Pye
Founder



Ginn Economic Consulting/Trump 45 White House OMB
Vance Ginn
Chief Economist



Independent Women
Patrice Lee Onwuka
Vice President of Economic Policy and Director of Center for Economic Opportunity



Independent Women
Gabriella Hoffman
Director Center for Energy and Conservation



Liberty Justice Center
Sara Albrecht
Chairman & CEO



Market Institute
Charles Sauer
Founder & President



Pinpoint Policy Institute
Eric Ventimiglia
Executive Director



R Street Institute
Nan Swift
Senior Fellow



Rio Grande Foundation
Paul Gessing
President



Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO



Young Voices
Casey Given
Chief Executive Officer