



NMA REPORT #R-215

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Asserting our right "...to petition the Government for redress of grievances."

Amendment 1, U.S. Constitution, Dec. 15, 1791

HOW TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON MARITIME ISSUES

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"Civics 101"

The Merchant Marine is regulated by Federal rather than by state regulations. Consequently, most of our mariners hold federal credentials as officers and ratings issued by the U.S. Coast Guard and TWIC cards issued by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

The United States Federal Government is composed of three separate and distinct Branches:

- The **Executive Branch** includes the President and Vice-President who serve four-year terms. The President appoints his "Cabinet" composed of Secretaries of Cabinet Level Departments. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in which the U.S. Coast Guard now resides (since 2003) is one such Department with approximately 160,000 federal employees. The Coast Guard is the Department of Homeland Security's largest Agency with approximately 42,000 employees. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is another DHS agency that issues TWIC cards and investigates transportation security incidents. The National Transportation Safety Board, that investigates some major maritime accidents, is an independent Agency.
- The **Judicial Branch**. Includes the Supreme Court, Federal Courts of Appeal, Federal District Courts.
- **Congress**. Includes the U.S. House of Representatives with its 435 "Representatives" apportioned according to each state's population elected for two-year terms. The U.S. Senate has 100 Senators with two "Senators" elected from each state with six-year terms of office.

Congressional Representation

Each individual in the United States is "represented" by one "Representative" (often called "Congressman") and two U.S. Senators. If you experience an issue or problem with any federal agency, you may want to contact the Representative in your Congressional District or one of your two Senators. Each Representative or Senator has a nearby local office that is staffed to handle your complaints as long as that complaint deals with a "federal" and not a "state" or local governmental issue. You will find the address and phone number of your Representative and two Senators listed in your local phone book under U.S. Government. Each also has an internet website.

If you divide the nation's population of about 310,000,000 by its 435 Representatives, you will find that each Representative serves slightly less than 700,000 people. Nevertheless, your Senator or Representative maintains an office in Washington as well as one or more local offices and staff to answer your questions and respond to your concerns.

How important are our nation's mariners and where do they fit into the "big picture"? Well, the Coast Guard says that there are about 210,000 credentialed mariners in the country. So, even if every credentialed mariner lived in exactly the same Congressional District and was concerned about the same issues, we would not be in the majority in even one Congressional district. So much for mariners affecting legislation (i.e., law-making) by considering all mariners as one unit.

DIVIDING THE WORKLOAD – THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Congress works by Committee. One of the important committees that deals with the Merchant Marine is the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 112th Congress, this large committee is composed of 26 Democrats and 33 Republicans with its Chairman **Representative John Mica (R-FL)** and its minority Ranking Member is **Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV)**.

A 59-person committee is unwieldy to work with and its work is parceled out into six specialized Subcommittees. Of these subcommittees, the one of most concern to our mariners is the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Sub-Committee. This sub-committee is part of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and deals directly with maritime issues. The Sub-committee Chairman is **Representative Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ)** and its Ranking Member is **Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA)**. Representatives Mica and Rahall, chair and Ranking Member of the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee also serve *ex-officio* on each sub-committee.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff is located at Room 2165, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Telephone #: 202-225-9446.

The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Sub-Committee staff office is in Room 507, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Phone #: 202-226-3552.

What Does the Coast Guard and Maritime Subcommittee do?

Rep. Frank LoBiondo, Chairman. The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee **oversees laws related to the Coast Guard**, shipping and all aspects of maritime transportation.

Coast Guard Authorization: One of the Committee's priorities in the 112th Congress is enacting legislation to provide the necessary authorities and resources for the Coast Guard to carry out its broad responsibilities. The service enforces the nation's laws in U.S. waters and on the high seas, and protects the lives and property of those at sea. The Coast Guard's missions include maritime search and rescue, illegal drug and migrant interdiction, oil spill prevention and response in the marine environment, *marine safety*, maintenance of aids to navigation, icebreaking, enforcement of U.S. fisheries and other marine environmental laws, and maritime defense readiness.

Maritime Transportation: The Committee supports the development of a national strategic transportation plan that includes a strong maritime transportation component and greater use of coastwise trade. Marine highways represent a cost effective but underutilized mode of transportation, and the Committee will examine ways to encourage the use of short-sea shipping, or shipping between domestic ports in the United States. This concept has the potential to create new maritime industry jobs for Americans.

Oil Spill Prevention and Response: The Coast Guard was the first federal agency to respond to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The service also assumed the role as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and the National Incident Commander for the spill.

The Committee will work to ensure that the nation's oil spill prevention and response capabilities protect the environment without threatening U.S. jobs. The Committee is also committed to ensuring that future deepwater drilling permits are not rubberstamped and that adequate technologies, more thorough inspections, better oversight and better planning are required for future exploration and drilling activities. We can provide responsible environmental safeguards while continuing to utilize domestic energy resources and ensuring vital energy sector jobs.

DIVIDING THE WORKLOAD – U.S. SENATE

In the U.S. Senate, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee composed of 13 Democrats and 12 Republicans and is divided into seven (7) sub-committees. The Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure Subcommittee with Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) as Chairman and Senator John Thune (R-SD) as Ranking Member deal with many of our issues as does the Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee with Senator Mark Begich (D-AK) as Chairman and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) as Ranking Member.

The Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

This subcommittee is responsible for legislation and oversight of matters that impact our oceans, coasts, and climate, including: coastal zone management; marine fisheries and marine mammals; oceans, weather and atmospheric activities; marine and ocean navigation; ocean policy and NOAA. The Subcommittee is responsible for **overseeing the Coast Guard**, which includes the safe and secure operations of vessels entering the United States or

transiting through our Exclusive Economic Zone and the enforcement of maritime laws to support maritime commerce and protect marine living resources.

The Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

This subcommittee has jurisdiction over matters relating to interstate transportation policy issues. In addition to the Committee's broad oversight of the Department of Transportation, the Subcommittee has oversight over the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, the Maritime Administration and the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. **The Subcommittee also has jurisdiction over the transportation security programs and policies of the Department of Homeland Security.** It also has jurisdiction over independent transportation regulatory boards, including the Federal Maritime Commission and the Surface Transportation Board. The Subcommittee focuses on safety, security, and infrastructure development related to both freight and passenger transportation.

Each Senate Committee has **Staff Members** who carry out the tasks assigned by their Committee or Subcommittee. The Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee is located at Room 254, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Telephone: (202) 224-0411.

The following pages list the mailing addresses (i.e., snail mail) for the Washington, DC office of each of these committee members. To find the telephone, fax, or e-mail address of ANY Representative or Senator, use the internet address <http://Thomas.loc.gov/> or call the local office of your U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator. If you are an NMA member, call us for this type of information and suggestions.

The following pages are set up to print on a 1 in. x 2 5/8 inch label. Compared to Avery #5960.

<p>WHAT DOES OUR ASSOCIATION WANT FROM THE 112th CONGRESS?</p>
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We ask Congress to consider our requests contained in NMA Report #R-350, Rev. 6 titled Limited Tonnage Mariners Ask for Assistance from Congress on Marine Safety, Health, and Work-Related Issues. This list focuses on important changes that we believe need to be made at the Congressional level, especially in areas where the Coast Guard tells us it lacks the authority to make the changes requested or where a conflict exists between two Executive Branch agencies.

Although we submit NMA Report #R-350, Rev. 6 to the full mailing list, we ask our mariners to make reference to it in any discussions they have with Members of Congress or their staff.

**House of Representatives
Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation
Subcommittee
112th. Congress -2011
REPUBLICANS**

Rep. Frank LoBiondo, Chairman
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
2427 Rayburn House Office Bldg/
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Don Young
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
2314 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Howard Coble
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
2188 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Andy Harris
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Frank Guinta
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Chip Cravaack
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
508 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Blake Farenhold
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
2110 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Jeffrey Landry
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
206 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

**House of Representatives
Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation
Subcommittee
112th. Congress -2011
DEMOCRATS**

Rep. Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee,
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Elijah Cummings
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
2235 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Corinne Brown
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Tim Bishop
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
306 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Mazie K. Hirono
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
1410 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Michael Michaud
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
1724 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

**House of Representatives
Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation
Subcommittee
112th. Congress -2011
EX OFFICIO**

Rep. John Mica
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
2187 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Nick Rahall
Coast Guard & Mar Trans. Subcommittee
2307 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. James W. Coon
Chief of Staff
House Trans.& Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Jimmy Miller
House Trans.& Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

**U.S.Senate
Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries & USCG
DEMOCRATS**

Senator Mark Begich, Chairman
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
722 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John F. Kerry
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
218 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Nelson
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
716 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
511 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Frank Lautenberg
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
324 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Amy Klobuchar
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
302 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

**U.S.Senate
Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries & USCG
REPUBLICANS**

Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, Ranking Mem.
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
154 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Ensign
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
119 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Roger Wicker
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
555 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Johnny Isakson
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
120 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Boozman
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
CYard1 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Marco Rubio
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kelly Ayotte
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
188 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

**U.S.Senate
Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries & USCG
EX OFFICIO**

Senator Jay Rockefeller, Chairman
Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
531 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, RM
Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Ms. Ellen Doneski
Majority Chief of Staff
Commerce, Science & Transp. Committee
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ms. Ann D. Begeman
Minority Chief of Staff
Commerce, Science & Transp. Committee
254 Russell Senate Office Building

Senator Mark Warner
Oceans, Atmos., Fisheries & Coast Guard
Subcommittee
459A Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senate
Surface Transportation & Merchant
Marine Infrastructure, Safety & Security
Subcommittee
(Additional Members not on Oceans,
Atmos, Fish & USCG Subcommittee)

Senator Barbara Boxer

Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mark Pryor

Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Claire McCaskill

Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
717 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tom Udall

Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
110 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Thune

Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
493 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jim DeMint

Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
167 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Roy Blunt

Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick J. Toomey

Commerce, Science & Trans. Committee
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510