

August 30, 2024

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the undersigned maritime stakeholders, including shipping companies, labor organizations, ports, shipbuilders and trade associations, we are writing to urge that the Senate Commerce Committee advance the presidential nominations of Commissioners Carl Bentzel and Louis Sola to serve second terms on the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC). Our companies and employees serve throughout the domestic and international maritime supply chain, playing vital roles in ensuring America's economy remains connected and competitive in the global marketplace. We do this in the face of growing geopolitical and commercial challenges, including unprecedented attacks on commercial merchant vessels and mariners sailing through the Red Sea region.

The current tenure of Commissioners Bentzel and Sola at the FMC has been marked by a collective dedication, expertise, and a commitment to safeguarding our national interests and protecting U.S. jobs and businesses from unfair trade and business practices. Their deep understanding of the complexities of maritime law and regulation – honed after decades in the maritime industry – coupled with their experience in both public and private sectors, make them exceptionally qualified to continue serving on the Commission.

During these unprecedented times of economic uncertainty and global tension, ongoing disruptions to international supply chains and maritime logistics represent a continuing threat to our nation's collective well-being. Effective and comprehensive oversight of the industry requires steadfast and knowledgeable hands, and the confirmation of Commissioners Bentzel and Sola to a second term will provide the continuity and necessary experience to address the dynamic and increasingly complex issues facing the U.S. maritime supply chain and American maritime workers. Their proven track record of leadership and unwavering commitment to the well-being of the U.S. maritime industry make their continued, and uninterrupted service an invaluable asset to the Commission and our nation.

For these reasons, we again strongly urge you to expeditiously confirm Commissioners Carl Bentzel and Lou Sola to serve another full term on the FMC as you work to preserve the critical nature of the FMC's mission and ensure its continuity. We deeply appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Thank you,

Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Association of Port Authorities
American Chemistry Council
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
American Merchant Marine Veterans
American Pilots Association
American Radio Association
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier Group
American Steamship Company
American Waterways Operators
Atlas Crossing
Baltimore Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Consumer Brands Association
Council of American Master Mariners
Crowley Maritime
Cruise Lines International Association
Detroit Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Dredging Contractors of America
Empire Worldwide Logistics
Florida Customs Broker Association
Foreign Trade Association
Genesis Marine
Grand River Navigation Company, Inc.
Great Lakes Dredge and Dock
Great Lakes Maritime Task Force
Houston Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
International Trade and Transportation, Inc
International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)
JFK Airport Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Keystone Shipping Co.

Lake Carriers Association
Liberty Maritime
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
Louis Dreyfus Company
Mallory Alexander International Logistics
Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (AFL-CIO)
Marine Firemen's Union
Maritime Accelerator for Resilience
Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey
Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
Maritime Trades Department (AFL-CIO)
Masters, Mates, & Pilots (AFL-CIO)
MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company
National Association of Waterfront Employers
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
National Industrial Transportation League
National Retail Federation
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association
Overseas Shipholding Group
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders (PCC)
Patriot Maritime
Rogers & Brown Custom Brokers, Inc.
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Saltchuk
Seafarers International Union (AFL-CIO)
Sealift LLC
The Pasha Group
TOTE, LLC
Transportation Institute
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Forage Export Council
U.S. Marine Management
Vimar
Western Great Lakes Pilots' Association
Wildcat Logistics