



HR0480

LRB101 12876 ALS 62004 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are supportive of federal statutes that ensure that vessels engaged in the coastwise and inland trades are built and crewed by American workers; the Jones Act, the Maritime Security Program, the Passenger Vessel Services Act, and U.S. cargo preference laws are critical in maintaining a viable American Merchant Marine; and

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WHEREAS, Without the Jones Act, the American Merchant Marine and its well-paying jobs would be destroyed, and the domestic waterborne commerce of the U.S. would be controlled by foreign interests; and

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WHEREAS, The Maritime Security Program ensures that 60 American vessels are engaged in the foreign commerce of the U.S.; the program requires that the vessels, crews, and participating companies' intermodal assets are immediately available to the Department of Defense in times of crisis; military experts have said it would literally cost tens of billions of dollars to replicate the program's assets, which currently are delivered for a few hundred million dollars per year; and

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WHEREAS, The Passenger Vessel Services Act provides the

1 same requirement for passenger vessels, for example, ferry
2 boats, that the Jones Act stipulates for cargo vessels; like
3 the Jones Act, it is considered vital to homeland security; and

4 WHEREAS, A key element of U.S. cargo preference laws is the
5 Food for Peace Program, whose purpose is to promote the food
6 security of developing countries; food aid is grown by American
7 farmers, processed by American workers, and transported on
8 board U.S. vessels to countries in need; since the program's
9 inception in 1954, more than three billion people in 150
10 countries have benefited directly from U.S. food aid that was
11 delivered by the U.S. Merchant Marine; and

12 WHEREAS, The development and expansion of America's marine
13 highway system is an ongoing, joint government-private
14 industry effort; the resultant increase in the coastwise
15 waterborne transportation of cargo will help to significantly
16 alleviate congestion on our nation's highways and rails,
17 achieve a greater measure of energy efficiency in the
18 transportation of domestic cargo, and create jobs for American
19 workers in the maritime industry and its related service and
20 supply industries; and

21 WHEREAS, The so-called "flag of convenience" system in
22 which avaricious shipowners around the world register their
23 vessels in phony flag states to evade labor, safety,

1 environmental, and tax laws deserves condemnation; this system
2 has resulted in the global exploitation of seagoing maritime
3 labor and the reduction of international commercial cargo
4 carried by U.S. vessels to less than 2 percent; therefore, be
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6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we support the U.S. Merchant Marine as America's fourth arm of
9 defense and recognize that the American maritime industry is
10 critical for U.S. national, economic, and homeland security and
11 that our mariners and our maritime industry deserve our full
12 support.