



HR0291

LRB103 32378 MST 61793 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois' pivotal role as a hub between maritime
3 transportation on the Great Lakes and inland river system,
4 including 1,100 miles of navigable waterways on the Illinois,
5 Ohio, and Mississippi River systems, make it central to the
6 nation's transportation system; and

7 WHEREAS, The recent global pandemic and hostilities in
8 Europe have demonstrated the critical importance of
9 maintaining resilient domestic industries and transportation
10 services for the citizens and workforce of Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, The Merchant Marine Act of 1920, known as the
12 Jones Act and codified in Title 46 of the United States Code,
13 requires that vessels carrying cargo between locations in the
14 United States be owned by American companies, crewed by
15 American mariners, and built in American shipyards; and

16 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to 19,500 maritime jobs
17 supported by the Jones Act, the ninth highest among all
18 states, that generate more than \$1.3 billion in worker income;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Maritime industry jobs create ladders of
21 opportunity through high-paying, family-wage careers that

1 offer significant advancement opportunities without requiring
2 advanced formal education; and

3 WHEREAS, The more than 40,000 vessel strong Jones Act
4 fleet supports nearly 650,000 family-wage jobs and over \$154
5 billion in economic output nationally and \$4.87 billion to the
6 Illinois economy; and

7 WHEREAS, Mariners aboard Jones Act vessels strengthen
8 America's homeland security as added eyes and ears monitoring
9 the nation's 95,000 miles of shoreline and 25,000 miles of
10 navigable inland waterways; and

11 WHEREAS, America's ability to project and deploy forces
12 globally and supply and maintain military installations
13 domestically depends on the civilian fleet of Jones Act
14 vessels and mariners; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we affirm our resolute support for the Jones Act and celebrate
18 the more than 100-year history of the Jones Act in fostering a
19 strong domestic maritime industry that is critical to Illinois
20 workers and families and to the nation's economic prosperity
21 and national security; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to each member of the Illinois Congressional
3 Delegation.