IAM UNION

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Office of the International President

November 19, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the more than 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM Union), **I write to urge you to end the current Jones Act waiver set to expire in February 2027, and to avoid any future waivers, limitations, or attempts to weaken the Jones Act.** The current waiver has done nothing to achieve its stated goal of lowering prices. It has instead opened U.S. commerce to foreign interests, created national security concerns, strengthened China's dominance of the maritime industry, and weakened the investment signal needed to reinvigorate domestic shipbuilding and rebuild our domestic fleet.

Your Administration has rightly been a strong advocate for the domestic shipbuilding and maritime industries, highlighted by Executive Order 14269 Restoring America's Maritime Dominance and your 2026 Maritime Action Plan. However, your recent waiver of the Jones Act and subsequent extensions of the waiver are counterproductive to your administration's stated goals of reinvigorating domestic shipbuilding and restoring U.S. maritime dominance.

After more than eight months under your currently extended Jones Act waiver, the impact is clear: the waiver has done nothing to bring down costs for U.S. consumers and instead threatens to stymie your shipbuilding and maritime dominance agenda. During the waiver U.S. shipyards, workers across the industry, and vessel operators have lost work while domestic investment has been severely disrupted. At the same time, foreign traders and vessel operators have made record profits. The waiver has allowed foreign companies access to domestic trade routes and substantial commercial opportunities while ignoring U.S. tax, immigration, labor, security and safety laws.

The waiver has also done nothing to lower prices for American consumers. After more than eight months of Jones Act waivers, gasoline remains above $4 per gallon nationally and diesel above $6 per gallon. Published reports have found no demonstrated price reduction benefit from the waiver. This is because the waiver cannot reopen global shipping lanes, increase inventories, or change the crude and refining realities that is driving prices. Instead, the

waivers merely change who has access to U.S. commercial opportunities, allowing foreign entities to exploit these opportunities for profit at the expense of American workers, businesses, and maritime progress.

We are eager to continue our work with your administration to reinvigorate domestic shipbuilding and restore America's maritime dominance. As such, **I urge you to end the current counterproductive Jones Act waiver and avoid additional waivers moving forward.** These waivers invariably do little to nothing to achieve their stated goals and consistently thwart our efforts to strengthen domestic shipbuilding and maritime industries. It is time to end the waiver and return U.S. cargo and jobs back to U.S. workers and our domestic maritime industry.

For more information, please have your staff contact IAM National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,



Brian Bryant
IAM International President