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July 14, 2016

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Chairman  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2208 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2264 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith:

As President of the Shipbuilders Council of America, I am writing to urge your support for maintaining the inclusion of the Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH) provision in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. MACOSH is a 15-member committee which was established to advise OSHA on standards and policies affecting the maritime industry (U.S. Navy and commercial shipbuilding/repair, longshoring and maritime terminals)--an industry which is extremely complex and high-risk. According to OSHA, "the insight OSHA receives from the Committee is invaluable in reducing the amount of work-related injuries and illnesses." MACOSH is a "discretionary" committee, and must be re-justified and re-chartered every two years pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

MACOSH's work is repeatedly interrupted because charters have not been renewed in a timely manner. These lapses in charter distract MACOSH away from its mission to provide a collective expertise, not otherwise available to the Secretary of Labor to assist in addressing the unique hazards found in shipyard and marine cargo handling activities. It is vital our U.S. Navy and commercial shipbuilders work in accordance to the safest industry standards and procedures so those workers can return home at the end of the day.

This advisory committee provides industry a venue for constructive agency/stakeholder dialogue that ultimately protects lives at work and stabilizes our manufacturing sector. Any efforts to remove this important provision from the NDAA would eliminate a critical check on and window into the Labor Department in implementing regulations that will ultimately impact our industry.

By stabilizing this Advisory Committee, the shipbuilding industry will maintain consistent safe and regulatory compliant work environment, thus making the industry more attractive to workers and reducing employer noncompliance violations. It is only through MACOSH these shipyards have the forum to develop best practices in safety and health.

**We request your support for maintaining the inclusion of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 amendment to the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHAct) to establish MACOSH as a continuing statutory advisory committee.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Matthew Paxton  
President,  
Shipbuilders Council of America

**Additional Supporting Organizations:**

Occupational Safety & Health State Plan Association  
(OSHSPA)  
National Association of Waterfront Employers (NAWE)  
General Dynamics/Electric Boat  
Huntington Ingalls  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW  
Local 733)  
United Steel Workers Union (USW)  
International Longshoremen's Association (ILA)  
National Maritime Safety Association (NMSA)  
Maritime Administration  
Coast Guard

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*The national trade association for U.S. shipbuilders, ship repairers, and shipyard suppliers.*

*Founded in 1920*