

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 18, 2009

The Honorable John P. Murtha  
Chairman  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
H-149 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Ranking Member  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Representative Young:

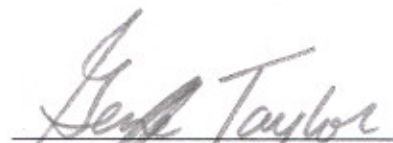

We respectfully ask for your support in appropriating \$60 million in National Defense Sealift Fund account of the fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill for the Maritime Administration's Title XI Ship Loan Guarantee Program. Funding for Title XI is vital to ensuring that United States ship owners have access to affordable financing to build ships in this country to meet America's domestic commercial, energy, and military sealift needs.


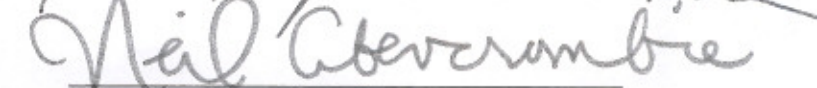
The financing terms and conditions facilitated by Title XI are essential to ensuring ship owners have access to affordable financing to replace and expand their fleets. With the tightening of the credit market and hesitancy of lenders to agree to large commercial loans, the federal guarantee provided through Title XI is even more critical during this recession. Last year, Congress appropriated \$48 million in the National Defense Sealift Fund for the Title XI program. As a result, several ship owners have filed applications for Title XI financing. However, the number of pending requests exceeds the amount available to guarantee the loans. The current situation underscores the need for annual financing to address the replacement demands of the aging Jones Act fleet, which is estimated in the tens of billions of dollars.

The Title XI program has historically had a 20 to 1 multiplier, generating \$20 million in ship construction for every \$1 million appropriated. An appropriation of \$60 million in fiscal year 2010 will generate up to \$1.2 billion in new construction in the United States. Title XI is a sound investment of taxpayer dollars, and new commercial ship construction will create and sustain roughly 13,000 shipyard jobs and tens of thousands of jobs across the country. In addition, increased commercial ship construction helps to lower the cost of naval ships, and ensures the United States maintains a fleet of American-built ships to serve as a defense auxiliary fleet in times of war or national emergency.

We, collectively and individually, do not have a financial interest in this request, and neither do any of our spouses. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Carol Shea-Porter

Eric J. Zane  
clerk

Wendy J. Nelson

Joe Courtney

Ala a seag

Jim Sangwin

Tammy Baldwin

July A. Spindel

Sheila

Tim J.

Corinne Brown

Judy Hodges

Concepcion

Billy

Madeline J. Bordallo

Joseph Altamura

Ally Johnson

Nick Zeman

2. J. Coe Ari

Rachel

Bob Filner

Bart Sypal

William P. Gilkey

## **FY 2010 Title XI Letter**

### **Representatives:**

Gene Taylor (D-MS)  
Rob Wittman (R-VA)  
Susan Davis (D-CA)  
Neil Abercrombie (D-HI)  
Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)  
Duncan Hunter (R-CA)  
Eric Massa (D-NY)  
Bobby Scott (D-VA)  
Chellie Pingree (D-ME)  
Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU)  
Charles Melancon (D-LA)  
Jason Altmire (D-PA)  
Joe Courtney (D-CT)  
Stephen Lynch (D-MA)  
Robert Brady (D-PA)  
Rick Larsen (D-WA)  
Jim Langevin (D-RI)  
Todd Akin (R-MO)  
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)  
Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)  
Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ)  
Bob Filner (D-CA)  
Gene Green (D-TX)  
Bart Stupak (D-MI)  
Tim Bishop (D-NY)  
Brian Bilbray (R-CA)  
Corrine Brown (D-FL)  
Randy Forbes (R-VA)