



Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
50th District, California

January 15, 2015

Senator Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Thune
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Thune:

As the Senate considers legislation on the Keystone pipeline and other energy and security measures, I urge you to oppose efforts to weaken the Jones Act. The Jones Act keeps jobs, ships and a maritime skill base in the United States—and any effort to diminish this longstanding law is sure to negatively impact America's maritime industry and its significant contributions to the national economy.

Chapter 551 of title 46 United States Code, popularly known as the Jones Act, is the United States domestic cabotage law. It requires that vessels carrying passengers or merchandise between any two points in the United States be U.S. flagged, U.S. crewed, U.S. built, and U.S. owned. These requirements ensure that the United States retains a minimum core of shipbuilders and ship operators, and their skills and capabilities, in the United States. Further, this guarantees that we will not be at held hostage to whims and dictates of foreign ship owners and operators, or foreign mariners when ships and mariners are needed to respond to disasters or support national security requirements.

U.S. companies are investing significantly in the Jones Act, particularly in the area of energy transportation. Congress should be supporting, not undermining, those investments in U.S. jobs and U.S. skills. I urge you to oppose any effort—including amendments that might be offered in your committee—to weaken the Jones Act.

Thank you for your consideration. And please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss the importance of the Jones Act to U.S. national security and to the retention of U.S. jobs and maritime industry skills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress