

## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Maritime Union Statement on OSG CEO Sam Norton's Tradewinds Interview*

**Washington, DC** – The Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, AFL-CIO (M.E.B.A.) released the following statement in response to recent comments made by the CEO of Overseas Shipholding Group (OSG) Sam Norton in an interview with *Tradewinds*, calling for the hiring of foreign workers to resolve U.S. mariner crewing shortages:

“As loyal Americans who work every day in service to the United States Merchant Marine, we are deeply insulted by the remarks made by Sam Norton suggesting that the industry's solution to address crewing shortages is to hire and replace them with foreign workers, plain and simple. Opening the door for non-U.S. citizens to work aboard U.S. vessels does nothing to solve the root cause of the problem. In fact, it would be the final nail in the coffin of the U.S. Merchant Marine — what self-respecting American college graduate would choose to work in this industry fully knowing your best-case return would be third-world wages and benefits? Mr. Norton's ambitions would only suppress industry wages and the quality of work while driving away any hope of recruiting and retaining aspiring cadets and seamen who want to pursue a lifelong, prosperous career in shipping.

It is ironic that Mr. Norton, whose company receives tens of millions of American taxpayer dollars annually to ship cargo for the United States military, wants to benefit from government support while simultaneously exploiting cheap, foreign labor and further degrading our nation's fourth arm of defense. In fact, by the end of 2021, Mr. Norton personally received over \$2.3 million in annual compensation while his highest-paid mariners earn only a fraction of that number. Instead of looking to circumvent the employment of American labor, Mr. Norton would be better served using his time more wisely making his company a desirable place to work by improving the wages, retirement, and quality of life for the mariners that make his company profitable.”

### ***About the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association***

*The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. We represent a large and diverse mix of engineers and deck officers, experienced and skilled in all aspects of the maritime workforce. Our marine officers crew the most technologically advanced ships in the U.S.-flag fleet, including tankers, Great Lakes vessels, cruise and container ships. We sail aboard Government-contracted ships of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command and the Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve Force, on tugs and ferry fleets around the country, LNG vessels and in various capacities in the shoreside industries.*