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March 16, 2018

The Honorable John Garamendi
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Garamendi:

On behalf of the Offshore Marine Service Association (OMSA) and its Board of Directors, I write to inform you that OMSA has endorsed the Energizing American Shipbuilding Act. We thank you for bringing forth this important legislation and all you do to enhance the domestic maritime and shipbuilding industries.

As you know, OMSA is the national trade association representing the owners and operators of U.S.-Flagged vessels that service, supply, and construct oil and gas exploration and production infrastructure on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Additionally, OMSA represents related companies that build and maintain these fleets as well as the equipment manufacturers, training providers, insurance brokers, law firms, accountants, and others that provide professional services to offshore vessel owners and operators. In total, OMSA represents more than 170-member companies, their 12,000 employees, and 1,200 U.S.-Flagged vessels.

In this capacity, we have seen the detriment experienced by countries that subcontract their security by outsourcing their maritime and shipbuilding industries and understand this is not a model the United States should replicate. As such, OMSA supports regulatory and legislative attempts to enhance these important industries. Moreover, OMSA recognizes that the more than 100,000 Americans who work in U.S. shipyards have irreplaceable skills. We are concerned about the economic and national security ramifications of losing these experts to other industries, a prospect that would have a negative impact on OMSA members and the nation as a whole.

Famed economist Adam Smith stated, "As defense, however, is of much more importance than opulence, the act of navigation is, perhaps, the wisest of all the commercial regulations." This quote remains true today and OMSA knows firsthand the national, homeland, and economic security benefits provided by a robust domestic shipbuilding supply base. OMSA recognizes that the Energizing American Shipbuilding Act will increase and enhance this valuable industry; as such, we endorse this legislation and will work toward its expedited passage into law.

Thank you again for your efforts and please let us know how we can be of service.

Sincerely,

Aaron C. Smith
President and CEO