



**INTERNATIONAL
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June 13, 2018

VIA EMAIL

To: All Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 775,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing to express my support for the “Energizing American Shipbuilding Act” (H.R. 5893 and S. 2916 were introduced in the House and Senate on May 21, 2018 and May 22, 2018, respectively) which would dramatically revitalize U.S.-flag fleet expansion and American manufacturing as well as shore up the country’s energy export sector.

The IBEW urges you to consider becoming a co-sponsor of this legislation, which would translate into 1,000 new shipyard jobs and more than 2,200 mariner jobs, immediately requiring new training opportunities. The bill also specifies a percentage of exported crude oil and liquified natural gas travel on U.S.-built and U.S.-flag ships.

American vessels haul about 2 percent of the world’s cargo, a far cry from the 25 percent they carried in the 1950s. As Congress learned at a recent hearing on the state of the domestic maritime industry, cargo is key to rebuilding the American fleet. Under this legislation, 56 new ships would be built in the United States and flying under the U.S. flag by 2040. Requiring that all major components of the hull, superstructure and engine be built domestically, the bill compels the ships to include U.S.-produced iron and steel. Crafted to increase capacity to accomplish the Navy’s shipbuilding goals, the legislation recognizes that a strong commercial fleet is vital to national security as the Department of Defense relies on the Merchant Marines in times of war or national emergency.

The IBEW represents thousands of members at naval and private sector shipyards with records as leading producers of ships for the United States Navy. Our members, which include electricians, helpers, apprentices, electronics mechanics, planners, inspectors and trainers, work under Metal Trades contracts in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and Puget Sound in Washington state. IBEW members also work under collective bargaining agreements with commercial companies like Electric Boat in New London, Connecticut, and Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Additionally, the IBEW represents electricians working under construction maintenance agreements.

The bill has the support of the Shipbuilders Council of America and is likely to gain wide support from members on both sides of the aisle. I strongly urge you to become a co-sponsor of the “Energizing American Shipbuilding Act” for its support of American jobs, national security and our national economic interest.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:mlm

