



2026.09

IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE AND U.S. SHIPYARDS

WHEREAS, The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO (WSLC), reiterates its support for statutes that ensure that vessels engaged in the coastwise and international trades are built and crewed by American workers; and,

WHEREAS, the Jones Act, the Maritime Security Act, the Passenger Vessel Services Act, and U.S. cargo preference laws are key to maintaining the U.S. Merchant Marine; and,

WHEREAS, the maritime laws of the United States should be an aid and not a hindrance to the development of the Merchant Marine and the country's ship and boat building capabilities to build and sail competitively in the global economy; now, therefore, be it; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the WSLC calls on Congress to review existing tax policies and develop a tax program that will enable the American Merchant Marine to build and sail competitively in the global economy; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the 2026 WSLC Convention condemns the rotten "flag of convenience" system in which avaricious ship owners around the world register their vessels in phony flag states (Panama, Liberia, Marshall Islands, etc.), to evade labor, safety, environmental and tax laws which has resulted in the global exploitation of sea-going maritime labor; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to all members of the Washington State Legislature and the Washington State Congressional Delegation.

7.23.26

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