

International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Thirty-fifth International Convention
San Diego, California
June 4 – 8, 2012

M/S/C/U
6/7/12 pm

Resolution # R-23

SUPPORT AMERICA'S CABOTAGE LAWS

- WHEREAS: America's cabotage laws (the "Jones Act" provisions of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 and the Passenger Services Act of 1886) require that cargo and passengers transported by water between United States ports be carried on U.S. crewed, U.S. built and U.S. owned vessels; and
- WHEREAS: the United States domestic merchant fleet is the cornerstone upon which U.S. maritime power and the national maritime infrastructure rests; and
- WHEREAS: the United States domestic merchant fleet provides significant and cost-effective national security benefits in peace and war at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer; and
- WHEREAS: cabotage laws exist throughout the world, with some variations; and
- WHEREAS: America's cabotage laws do not "protect" American operators from competition, but simply require that everyone compete under the same set of rules; and
- WHEREAS: The Obama administration waived the Jones Act 46 times in 2011, to move oil from the Strategic Oil Reserve to refineries in the US. Even as unemployment hovered over 9 percent, the administration approved dozens of applications to transport nearly 30 million barrels of domestic crude oil within the borders of the United States on tankers employing foreign crews and flying the flags of the Marshall Islands, Panama and other countries. The move, which saved time and money for the oil companies that bought the oil, took potential work from more than 30 American cargo vessels and as many as 400 sailors. Only once was the oil from the reserve moved on American barges; and
- WHEREAS: Senator John McCain introduced a bill to fully repeal the Jones Act in 2010 and Representative Charles Djou has attempted to exempt Hawaii from the Jones Act several times, and these attacks will continue; and
- WHEREAS: when a real emergency exists, as in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina or the Russian ice tanker "Renda" bringing an emergency fuel delivery to Nome in

January this year, waivers have been granted by both the Bush and Obama administrations; and

WHEREAS: the work of the Inlandboatmen's Union as well as all other seagoing maritime unions is protected by the Jones Act; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that the Thirty-Fifth Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union reaffirm its support of America's cabotage laws and denounce the efforts to circumvent the intent of the Jones Act with waivers , or repeal those laws as contrary to the interests of American workers; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that this resolution be sent to all members of Congress and the legislators of the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii.