



May 25, 2010

The Honorable Gene Taylor
U.S. House of Representatives
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: H.R. 3169 Coast Guard Reauthorization Act – Reject Jones Act
Waiver for the M/V GEYSIR**

Dear Representative Taylor:

The Transportation Institute (Institute) is requesting your assistance in opposing a Jones Act waiver for the *M/V GEYSIR*, contained in H.R. 3619, the House version of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2010. The Senate version of the bill does not contain this waiver.

The Institute is a national trade association representing a diverse mix of U.S.-flag marine transportation providers. The goal of the Institute is to help maintain America's political and economic strength and national security. The Institute advocates and works for sound national maritime policy, without which America's global position would falter. To this end, the Institute seeks to preserve the Jones Act, which reserves domestic waterborne trade for U.S.-owned, built, and operated vessels, fostering the maintenance of an efficient domestic waterborne transportation network.

A Jones Act waiver for the *GEYSIR* is being sought by its owners so that the vessel can be deployed in some form of domestic coastwise short sea shipping service. Many of the Institute's member companies are researching markets to determine how best to expand their domestic operations to include short-haul routes between U.S. ports. The ships to be deployed in this service will be built or re-built in United States shipyards. The integrity of the cabotage laws must be maintained if the Institute's member companies are to make long-term capital investments in this new trade. Our companies will not go forward with future investments if aging ships such as the *GEYSIR* are allowed into the trade legislatively.

For that reason, the Institute has joined with U.S. shipbuilders and maritime labor to oppose a Jones Act waiver for the *GEYSIR*. We are respectfully requesting that you oppose the waiver and forward your opposition to the Senate Commerce Committee. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,


James L. Henry
Chairman and President

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May 25, 2010

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: H.R. 3169 Coast Guard Reauthorization Act – Reject Jones Act
Waiver for the M/V GEYSIR**

Dear Senator Wicker:

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James L. Henry
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