

## **Chairman Taylor, House Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee, Hearing Exchange With Maritime Administrator Matsuda Regarding the Jones Act**

**CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:** "Mr. Matsuda, I've noticed in the past couple of weeks a heck of a lot of misinformation being put out on the public airwaves, sometimes from people in elected office, but often from people just in the media, as far as the Jones Act. You know, they made a big deal of saying that vessel skimmers from around the world were not being allowed in because of the Jones Act, but where there's clearly an exemption in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 just for this circumstance. And so, just for the record, are you aware of any vessels that were kept out of the oil spill recovery in the Gulf of Mexico because of the Jones Act?"

**ADMINISTRATOR MATSUDA:** " Absolutely not. There are -- we work very closely with the National Incident Command. We have a role in executing the Jones Act and understanding whether there are U.S. ships who can do the work before a foreign -- as part of the process to understand whether a foreign flag oil spill response vessel could be used. So we certainly are dialed in, and I'm not aware of any instance where a Jones Act has prevented a ship from being used where it's needed."

**CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:** "And so, just for clarification, the law that says that the tow boats pushing gasoline barges up and down the Mississippi river, that Jones Act says it's got to be American made, American crewed, American owned. The repeal of the Jones Act would mean it could be Mexican made, Mexican crewed, Mexican owned. Is that correct?"

**ADMINISTRATOR MATSUDA:** "That's right."

**CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:** "That you could have crews and tugs from Somalia transporting goods from one American port to another. Would that be correct? Would the -- if the Jones Act were repealed?"

**ADMINISTRATOR MATSUDA:** "Theoretically, yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:** "OK. Again, for the people on the other side of this building who are calling for the repeal, particularly given the immigration attitude of the American public right now, I would hope that they would keep that in mind when they try, once again, to repeal the Jones Act."

*- House Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee; July 14, 2010*