



JONES ACT REPORT

September 2007

2008 Presidential Candidates Endorse Jones Act as Maritime Foundation

A top priority of the Maritime Cabotage Task Force (MCTF) in 2007-2008 is working with the Presidential campaigns. In that vein, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers recently circulated a questionnaire to the 2008 presidential candidates, which includes a question about the Jones Act. The question focuses on the build elements of the Act, but most candidates addressed the Jones Act in general. To date, the following candidates have responded.

Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE): "The Jones Act is a century old act that has served America's strategic defense needs well. It is crucial that we maintain domestic capacity – particularly in industries that are important to our national security."

Former Sen. John Edwards (D-NC): "For decades, the Jones Act has ensured the construction and operation of a merchant marine fleet capable of meeting our nation's commercial and military needs while simultaneously creating a competitive U.S. shipbuilding industry and thousands of good-paying American jobs."

Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY): "I am strongly committed to using American products as a way of spurring the creation of new jobs in this country. When we use American products in our coastal vessels, we spur more jobs for hardworking Americans. I oppose efforts to weaken the Jones Act."

Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL): "I supported the reauthorization of the Jones Act. ...maintaining the American merchant marine fleet is vital to our economy and national security. I would oppose any move to undermine this Act."

Labor Day 2007 Marks One Year Anniversary of President Bush's Jones Act Remarks

September 4, 2007 marks the one year anniversary of President Bush's remarks in support of the Jones Act. Last year, President Bush spent Labor Day at the Seafarers International Union's (SIU) Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training & Education in Piney Point, MD, where he made remarks in support of the U.S. maritime industry.

President Bush said, "...it's important for Presidents to embrace the Jones Act. [SIU President Mike] Sacco was constantly talking to me about that. I have... supported the Jones Act, and will continue to do so as the President."

Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT): "I am a strong supporter of the principles of the Jones Act."

Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH): "As a member of the House, I have signed on as a cosponsor of House Continuing Resolution 65, a statement of full support for the Jones Act and related statutes."

Gov. Bill Richardson (D-NM): "The Jones Act plays a valuable role in sustaining American projects for American workers...Without the Jones Act...the U.S. share of global commercial shipbuilding, which at one point had reached zero percent, would return to that level."

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