



October 24, 2023

ADM Ann Phillips, USN, Ret.
Maritime Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration, West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
Email: ann.phillips@dot.gov

Re: Hudson Institute's American Maritime Security Initiative

Dear Admiral Phillips:

The undersigned labor organizations are writing requesting you to take a formal position publicly denouncing the deeply flawed and self-serving maritime security “initiative” developed by the Hudson Institute. The Institute’s conclusions advocating for a U.S. second registry crewed by non-U.S. citizen mariners run contrary to both the mission and every action taken by the U.S. Maritime Administration and its predecessor agency, the U.S. Shipping Board, since their establishment in 1916.

As the agency responsible to support and advocate for the U.S. merchant marine and U.S. citizen merchant mariners, we urge you to speak out. The Hudson Institute’s proposed remedy to enlarge the U.S. flag fleet would effectively destroy what we have left. Not only would this initiative undermine the defense needs of our country and insult the sacrifices of thousands of U.S. citizen mariners who have supported our military in every conflict since 1775, it is clearly inimical to the aspirations and policies of President Biden’s administration.

Please make an unequivocal statement condemning this initiative for exactly what it is: an attack on the defense capabilities of our nation and the American worker. We have attached a statement that the undersigned have recently released to the public on this subject.

We would be pleased to meet with you at any time to discuss this matter. As always, thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mark Clements, Secretary-Treasurer, Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO
David Connolly, President, Sailors Union of the Pacific
Paul Doell, President, American Maritime Officers
David Heindel, President, Seafarers International Union
Don Marcus, President, International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Anthony Poplawski, President, Marine Firemen’s Union
Greg Regan, President, Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Adam Vokac, President, Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association

Enclosure