



March 28, 2017

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
United States House of Representatives
2429 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for H.R. 1726, the Coast Guard Improvement and Reform Act of 2017.

This bill requires the Secretary to carry out a program of environmental compliance and restoration at current and former Coast Guard facilities to:

- Identify, investigate, and clean up contamination from hazardous substances and pollutants.
- Correcting other environmental damage that poses an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or welfare to the environment.
- Demolishing and removing unsafe buildings and structures.
- Preventing contamination from hazardous substances and pollutants at current Coast Guard facilities.

Appointments to cadetships will be made under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, who will determine age limits, methods of selection of applicants, term of service as a cadet before graduation, and all other matters affecting such appointments. The Secretary will take necessary action to insure that female individuals will be eligible for appointment and admission to the Coast Guard Academy, and that the relevant standards required for appointment, admission, training, graduation, and commissioning of female individuals will be the same as those required for male individuals.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard may issue regulations to promote the safety of life on navigable waters during regattas or marine parades. The commandant may also detail any public vessel in the service of the Coast Guard and make use of any private vessel for that purpose.

The bill also recommends the establishment of a National Chemical Transportation Safety Advisory Committee. This committee will advise the Secretary on matters relating to the safe and secure marine transportation of hazardous materials. The committee will be made up of 25 members who bring experience from chemical manufacturing entities, entities related to marine handling or transportation of chemicals, vessel design and construction entities, marine safety or security entities, and marine environmental protection entities. The bill also calls for the

establishment of a National Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee, which will oversee navigation safety, safety equipment and procedures, marine insurance, vessel design, construction, maintenance, and operation, and personnel qualifications and training.

The National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee would advise the Secretary on matters relating to the personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness of mariners. It also called for the establishment of a National Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee, which would advise the Secretary on matters relating to medical certification determinations for the issuance of licenses, certification of registry, and merchant mariners' documents, medical standards and guidelines for the physical qualifications of operators of commercial vessels, medical examiner education, and medical research.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at michael.little@ausn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Joseph Little" followed by "ABH (Av Sec)" and "USNR" on a separate line.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs