



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

October 24, 2012

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

Eric Smith  
President  
American Maritime Partnership, Florida Chapter  
Two Harbour Place  
302 Knights Run Avenue, Suite 1200  
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Jones Act. This law ensures that all waterborne cargo moving between US ports is transported on American vessels. I support this law and the maritime industry.

Maritime law and commerce are very important to me as a Senator representing the state with the longest coastline in the lower 48 states, and as a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, which oversees the safe and secure operations of vessels around the United States and the enforcement of our maritime laws in support of commerce. The maritime industry supports more than 550,000 jobs in Florida, and contributes \$66 billion in total economic value to the State.

The Jones Act strengthens our maritime industry, which increases our economic competitiveness and our national security. A strong domestic shipping industry is essential to our security, and I am proud to support the Maritime Security Program.

I will continue fighting for the American maritime industry in Congress. Thank you for your interest in this import issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.