

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORGERON, AMEDEE, EDMONSTON, FIRMENT,
GADBERRY, KNOX, MIGUEZ, MOORE, SCHAMERHORN, SELDERS, AND
WRIGHT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express affirmation and resolute support for fostering a strong domestic maritime industry for the nation's security and economic prosperity.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's 2,800 miles of navigable waterways and pivotal role as the gateway of the Mississippi River system make it central to the nation's maritime transportation system and shipbuilding industry; and

WHEREAS, the global pandemic, hostilities in Europe, and overall geopolitical instability have demonstrated the critical importance of maintaining resilient domestic industries and transportation services to the citizens and workforce of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, known as the Jones Act and codified in Title 46 of the United States Code, requires that vessels carrying cargo between locations in the United States be owned by American companies, crewed by American mariners, and built in American shipyards; and

WHEREAS, America's ability to project and deploy forces globally, and supply and maintain military installations domestically, depends on the civilian fleet of Jones Act vessels and mariners; and

WHEREAS, mariners aboard Jones Act vessels strengthen America's homeland security as added eyes and ears monitoring the nation's 95,000 miles of shoreline and 25,000 miles of navigable inland waterways; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is home to 70,780 maritime jobs supported by the Jones Act, the highest among all states, that generate more than \$4.2 billion in worker income; and

WHEREAS, maritime industry jobs create ladders of opportunity through high-paying, family-wage careers that offer significant advancement opportunities without requiring advanced formal education; and

WHEREAS, the more than 40,000 vessel strong Jones Act fleet supports nearly 650,000 family-wage jobs and over \$154 billion in economic output nationally and \$18.2 billion to the Louisiana economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby affirm its resolute support for the Jones Act and celebrates the 103-year history of the Jones Act in fostering a strong domestic maritime industry that is critical to Louisiana's and the nation's security and economic prosperity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be immediately transmitted to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE