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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WEBSITE: murphy.house.gov

December 22, 2010

Bruce Fernie
Vice President-Operations
Keystone Shipping Company
One Bala Plaza East
Suite 600
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania 19004

Dear Captain Fernie:

Thank you for sharing with me this recent news release about domestic jobs and the Jones Act. I am always happy to hear success stories, such as the one you relate, and appreciate the opportunity to respond.

In our current economic environment, it is crucial that industry continues to innovate, evolve, and compete in spite of uncertainty. Productive industries create jobs, infuse money into the economy, and reinvest in their local communities. I am encouraged by your commitment to modernizing your fleet and delivering the best service possible to your customers. Americans are indebted to companies like yours, which continue to employ hundreds and ensure the steady flow of commerce along our nation's waterways.

I identify domestic shipping as one of the transportation trades crucial to this country's continued economic growth and development. Ensuring that a reliable supply of raw materials is available along the shores of America's lakes, rivers and oceans is critical to continued growth in domestic manufacturing. Growth in manufacturing puts more Americans back to work and helps to boost the national economy.

Many of my colleagues share this belief. To stimulate economic interest in and streamline domestic shipping, Representative Brian Higgins (D-NY) introduced HR 3486, the Short Sea Shipping Act, on July 31, 2009. HR 3486 exempts most commercial cargo from redundant harbor maintenance taxes when the cargo is loaded and shipped via a domestic waterway or along a costal shipping route. HR 5242, the American Shipping Reinvestment act, introduced by Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA), also focuses on simplifying tax laws associated with shipping. I am a co-sponsor of this legislation because it reduces the tax burden on shipping companies when they try and reinvest capital back into their domestic shipping operations. Both of the bills were referred to the

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House Committee on Ways and Means. Should either of the bills come before the house for a vote, I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind.

Because domestic shipping is so critical to continued economic development in our country, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues further. The next time you are in the Pittsburgh area, or Washington D.C., please contact my scheduler, Ashleigh Kazmeraski at 202-225-2301, to set up a meeting. Once again, thank you for taking the time to share this important news with me. I am grateful that you continue to keep me updated on issues affecting your industry. I look forward to working with you as we transition into the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "T" and a long, trailing "y".

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress