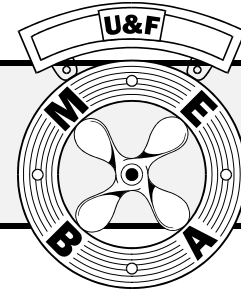


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



APRIL 2008

Last month was truncated for Congress as the House and Senate spent two weeks of March out of Washington. The official explanation: Easter Recess. During the break many lawmakers traveled overseas, including Sen. John McCain's tour of the Middle East and Europe. Sen. Clinton and Sen. Obama meanwhile stuck close to home as they campaigned in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Indiana – home of the next three big Democratic Primaries.

Senator Lautenberg introduces S. 2699

Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced S. 2699 on March 4. The bill would require new vessels for carrying oil fuel to have double hulls. The bill also addresses medical standards and marine casualty causation. Section 4 of Lautenberg's bill would improve the merchant mariner medical program by standardizing the training of medical examiners and the reporting of medical examinations in conjunction with the issuance and renewal of MMDs and licenses. Section 5 specifically directs the USCG to gather information that would help it assess the role that workload and fatigue, and manning play in marine casualty causation.

Congressman Ruppberger Addresses the NMEBA Convention

M.E.B.A.'s recent National Convention was visited by Congressman Dutch Ruppberger (D-MD) of Baltimore including the Port. He serves on the Appropriations Committee and the House Select Committee on Intelligence and chairs the Technical and Tactical Intelligence Subcommittee.

Dutch touched on numerous subjects of interest from his many areas of expertise. He talked a good deal about homeland security and the need to ensure the integrity of shipments from their port of embarkation without compromising the flow of commerce. Dutch went on to discuss TWIC issues and expressed some concerns with the ongoing process.