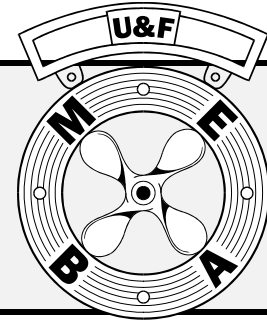


# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JULY 2008



On June 20th, Bill Number S.3174, The Port Authority Implementation Act of 2008, was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY). Based on the findings of a task force on port security established in 2006 by Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Chairman Anthony R. Coscia, the bill's most relevant provisions focus on: Mandatory Container Security Standards, Designated Security Officials on Ships, Law Enforcement Authorization to Confiscate Falsified TWICs, Regional Response and Recovery Plans, TWIC Requirements for vessels at Anchorage and Standardized Risk Assessment Tools.

On June 25th, Senator Frank Lautenberg introduced S.3199 in the U.S. Senate. Virtually identical to H.R. 1499 - introduced by Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) - this Harbor Maintenance Tax legislation is written to exempt waterborne cargo from the current application of the tax. In response, M.E.B.A., along with several other maritime unions, drafted letters to thank the Senators already signed on and to urge other Senators to co-sponsor the effort. With movement on both sides of Congress and our ongoing Hill campaign to repeal the HMT, the next Congressional session looks very promising.

With November's elections quickly approaching, M.E.B.A.'s Political & Legislative Representative at Headquarters, Quentin Hines, would like to gauge the thinking of members and retirees on Congressional races in your area. While we have many indicators and polls on each race, no report generated in Washington D.C. can represent your thoughts on each candidate. Your insight on the ground is key to our efforts in identifying and supporting policymakers that shape this industry. Please forward your thoughts to [quentinh@d1meba.org](mailto:quentinh@d1meba.org).