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February 24, 2021

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chair
Committee on Education and Labor
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act**

Dear Chairman Scott,

The Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO and its affiliated 17 International Unions which represent tens of thousands of shipbuilders, shipbreakers, harbor construction workers, longshore workers, and other essential port and maritime workers are *in support of the inclusion of Section 2104 in Subtitle-B in the proposed American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that would amend the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act.*

Our essential workers build, maintain and operate the ships and facilities that provide our nations supply chain and national defense. We are the American workforce that continues to perform their duties diligently and with distinction, regardless of risk or exposure to COVID-19, ensuring that food and medical supplies are unloaded and delivered to combat this heinous virus.

Unfortunately, a number of our nation's essential maritime employees have already passed away from COVID 19. Many more in the maritime and its related workforces have been hospitalized due to coronavirus illnesses and now face long term consequences to their health and family finances.

We strongly support the changes in the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act embodied in the proposed House of Representatives "**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.**" The legislation in the proposed Concurrent Budget Resolution, in separate sections, creates a presumption of causation of workplace illness arising from virus exposure for certain federal workers and for workers covered under the Longshore and Harbor Worker's Compensation Act. It is imperative that maritime industry "**Heroes**" receive the temporary or permanent disability benefits provided by the proposed legislation, as well as reasonable medical expenses and death benefits. The legislation does not blame employers or insurance carriers for the pandemic. The

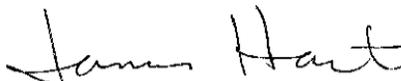
COVID-19 Relief
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
Longshore and Harbor Workers
Compensation Act

only legislative requirement of employers is that they comply with applicable safety and health regulations. Employer experience ratings or premiums will not be affected, as insurance carriers are provided relief through the legislation that allows them to recoup losses for COVID-19 related expenses.

This provision among many others being proposed is an important next step in our country's response to the COVID-19 crisis, providing compensation and critical health and safety protections for workers. The affiliates of the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, and our partners in the labor movement, strongly urge the House to ensure that enhancement of the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act provision(s) are an essential part of any COVID Relief Package.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Hart".

Jimmy Hart
President

Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO

cc: MTD Executive Council
William Samuel, AFL-CIO Government Affairs Director
Greg Regan, President Transportation Trades Department
Shawn McGarvey, President Building Trades Department
Maritime Trades Department Secretary Treasurer Dan Duncan