

**Secretary Anthony Foxx**  
**1<sup>st</sup> National Maritime Strategy Symposium**  
**Washington, DC • January 14, 2014**

Good morning, everyone. And a big thank you to Acting Administrator Jaenichen for the introduction.

You know, there's an old – and probably unfunny – joke they tell about two brothers: One went out to sea. The other went to Washington. And neither was heard from again.

Except today, we are hearing from those of you who go to sea – and also deal with the policy and strategy of traveling on it.

It's a pleasure to address our first National Maritime Strategy Symposium – and, frankly, it's surprising that we haven't had one before. This country's relationship and reliance on our oceans, lakes, rivers and waterways is centuries-old.

Over 300 years ago and about 200 miles – or 140 nautical miles – south of here, Jamestown, America's first colony, struggled during its early years. But once it established its overseas exports, it became a thriving foothold. From there, shipping went on to fuel our revolution, providing patriots with weapons and supplies from our transatlantic allies.

From those humble beginnings, the United States has grown into a seafaring nation. Today, U.S.-Flag commercial vessels crewed by American Merchant Mariners carry not only military equipment, but goods and exports worldwide. American companies ship cargo worth more than \$5.5 billion through U.S. ports every day.

This is just part the reason why, since 2009, our Department has granted over \$450 million to projects at 33 ports – large and small, inland and coastal.

It's why we're continuing to invest \$150 million more to boost production, capacity, and competitiveness at our country's shipyards.

But this is just the beginning.

The reason you're here – and you know this – is to help build on those investments and to chart a sustainable future for the U.S. Maritime Industry. What we need is a policy that keeps America's sealift capability... protects our long-term economic interests... and maintains the strategic asset of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

I know you can do it. Combined, here, we have *centuries* of maritime experience that I know will be put to good use.

You have a committed leader in Acting Administrator Jaenichen... a fantastic resource in the Members of Congress who will be here today and tomorrow... and major allies in the President, Vice President and, of course, me, too.

So thank you, again, for coming today. And I'm excited to see the result.

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