Maritime Administration Shipper Education Program

Overview

The mission of Maritime Administration (MARAD) is to foster, promote and develop the maritime industry of the United States to meet the nation's economic and security needs. MARAD promotes the use of waterborne transportation, and ensure that its infrastructure integrates seamlessly with other methods of transportation.

Facts

Repeatedly, Congress has asked,
"What are the principal barriers to development?";

"What can the Federal government do to jumpstart short sea shipping?";

"How can Congress help MARAD promote marine highways?"

The Solution

None of the activities MARAD is engaged in appear to be shipper driven To promote short sea shipping, MARAD should develop an education program to engage non-users of waterway shipping to:

- Market the inland waterways and its connectivity to domestic and foreign markets;
- Encourage incorporation of the waterways or modal shifts within their supply chain;
- Educate the positive impacts of waterways transportation to shippers.

Call to Action

Additional language in the 2026 Maritime Administration Reauthorization Bill to direct MARAD activities to include an education program and report to Senate Commerce annual on the steps taken. In short, if there is a way to 'hold MARAD accountable' for promoting the marine highways, this Bill is the avenue to achieve that.

Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals