Dear :

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is asking you to participate in a survey of U.S. merchant cargo vessel operators to determine if there is a current or projected shortage of mariners and the possible impact of such a shortage. We are also asking you to suggest possible solutions to any perceived shortage. If the survey reveals the existence or expectation of a shortage, we plan to undertake a more extensive follow-up survey to assess the magnitude of the problem in greater detail together with causes and potential long-term remedies. We are grateful for your help. Your answers will assist us in focusing on critical employment issues facing the nation’s maritime industry.

The survey is enclosed. Your company’s responses and detailed comments will be kept confidential. The aggregated responses for all companies will be published in a report and we will send you a copy. Thank you for taking the time in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

David T. Matsuda

Maritime Administrator

**MARAD Maritime Operator Survey**

**Concerning Mariner Availability**

***A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2133-0537. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be approximately 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Information Collection Clearance Officer, Maritime Administration, MAR-390, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.***

Name of Individual Respondent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Company Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Respondent Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Respondent Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Respondent E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Vessel Service (Put an X for what is applicable)

Ocean or Coastal Tanker \_\_\_

Ocean or Coastal Tank Barge \_\_\_

Inland Tank Barge \_\_\_

Ocean Container \_\_\_

Dry Bulk \_\_\_

Ocean or Coastal Dry Cargo Barge \_\_\_

Inland Dry Cargo Barge \_\_\_

Offshore Service \_\_\_

Great Lakes Dry Bulk \_\_\_

Ferry \_\_\_

Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Instructions:

For the purposes of this survey we define a mariner as a person actively engaged in the operating and/or crewing of commercial vessels.

Please complete the survey form and return it in the enclosed envelope. We would appreciate receiving your response by [TWO WEEKS FROM MAIL DATE].

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1. Did you hire mariners in 2007 other than in the ordinary course of replacement of existing mariners?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate department(s) below

Licensed Officers Unlicensed Mariners

Deck \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Engine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_\_

Don’t know \_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you plan to hire mariners in the period 2008-2009 other than in the ordinary course of replacement of existing mariners?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate department(s) below

Licensed Officers Unlicensed Mariners

Deck \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Engine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Don’t know \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Do you plan to hire mariners in the period 2010-2011 other than in the ordinary course of replacement of existing mariners?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate department(s) below

Licensed Officers Unlicensed Mariners

Deck \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Engine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Don’t know \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Within the past year or currently, have you had difficulty hiring mariners?

Have not attempted to hire \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Minor difficulty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major difficulty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. If the answer to Question 4 is “No” or “Have not attempted to hire” please proceed to Question 6. If you have had difficulty hiring mariners, in what department(s)?

Licensed Officers Unlicensed Mariners

Deck \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Engine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Within the past year or currently, have you had difficulty in retaining mariners?

No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Minor difficulty \_\_\_\_\_\_

Major difficulty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. If the answer to Question 6 is No, please proceed to Question 10. If you have had difficulty in retaining mariners, in what department(s)?

Licensed Officers Unlicensed Mariners

Deck \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Engine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How long do you expect the difficulty in hiring and/or retaining mariners to last?

One year or less \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Up to three years \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Up to five years or more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Has the difficulty you have experienced or expect to experience in hiring and/or retaining mariners impacted your business operations and plans or do you think that it will in the future?

No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To a minor extent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To a major extent\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please comment on the impact, if any. (REMINDER: We will keep all comments confidential.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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10. If you believe that there are current problems in hiring and/or retaining mariners, or that these problems will exist in the future, can you suggest any potential solutions?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for your time and cooperation.

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