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## **ARC Supports First Maritime Congressional Sail-in**

On Thursday 13 April 2010, American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier, LLC (ARC), other U.S.-flag carriers, maritime labor, and other representatives of the U.S. maritime industry participated in the first-ever Congressional “Sail-in” on Capitol Hill, meeting with members of Congress and their staffs to promote awareness of the economic and national security benefits of the maritime industry. Over 130 participants representing 47 companies and organizations and 48 Congressional districts and 20 states attended, meeting with over 120 lawmakers.

The maritime industry has lost a number of key Congressional maritime supporters over the past several years, such as Trent Lott, Fritz Hollings, John Breaux, and Ted Stevens. The sail-in was designed to foster the development of new and enhanced relationships with Members and staff whom heretofore had little or perhaps no exposure to the importance of the maritime industry, as well as to re-energize and reinforce friendships and alliances with lawmakers who are already keen supporters.

Participants gathered in the Rayburn House Office Building to coordinate the day’s events, and heard remarks by Acting Maritime Administrator David Matsuda and Congressman James Oberstar of Minnesota, the Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, which has jurisdiction over many maritime issues. Congressman Frank LoBiondo of New Jersey, the Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation, noted “Maritime has been an interest of strong passion for me since the beginning. I look forward to continuing to be an advocate for your issues. What’s good for your industry is good for America.”