

Deep Water Port *notes*

The News Portfolio of The Connecticut Deep Water Port Community
New London . New Haven . Bridgeport

Maritime Matters in Washington

By Mr. Paul Bea



Tanker Orpheas (900 feet long with a 55 foot draft) with a load of No. 6 fuel oil from Africa making way in Long Island Sound to Riverhead platforms.
Photo by Captain Charles P. Jonas

WHAT HAS THE ATTENTION OF THE MARITIME SECTOR IN D.C.? Depends on who you are. Here's my abbreviated take on the question. If you are a port there's the continuing watch-for-WRDA. The Senate passed its version of a Corps of Engineers policy and projects bill; now we await the House bill that may be unveiled in July. What it will have in channel projects will be less important to most ports than will policy changes having to do with the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. If you are in the U.S.-flag sector the overwhelming question is whether Congress

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will let the Administration follow through on its plan to cut the Food for Peace program—U.S.-flag vessels carrying U.S. farm goods to needy nations. The budgeted \$25 million consolation intended, vaguely, to assist crews stranded ashore by the plan isn't mollifying an increasingly frustrated industry and workforce. Judging by the FY14 appropriations bills Congress isn't going along with the president's proposed reforms. If you are a shipper who "pays the freight" you might want to keep a watchful eye on what Senator Patty Murray and other Washington State legislators come up with as a replacement to the Harbor Maintenance Tax. A new bill will be revealed this summer to take away an advantage Canadian and Mexican gateways have over U.S. ports where the HMT is charged on imports and cruise passengers. Such a proposal would face a steep climb on The Hill.

Paul Bea is a government relations and policy advisor in Washington, DC. He chairs the marine highway advocacy group, The Coastwise Coalition, and discusses marine transportation system matters at www.MTSmatters.com.

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Office for Veterans' Workforce Development (OVWD)

Mr. Terry Brennan, Director (860) 263-6514
<http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/veterans/vetreps.htm>

The Office of Military Affairs

Mr. Robert Ross, Executive Director (860) 270-8074,
bob.ross@ct.gov <http://www.ct.gov/oma/site/default.asp>

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Link: http://courtney.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6533&Itemid

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