



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

April 8, 2026

**To: Members of the U.S. Senate
Senate staff assigned to steel, transportation and/or defense issues**

COSPONSOR THE SHIPS FOR AMERICA ACT (S. 1541)

Background: Commercial shipbuilding and the broader maritime sector play an essential role in both American economic competitiveness and the American defense industrial base. Unfortunately, while the American shipbuilding sector has languished, China's has flourished. Today, China produces 1000 ships a year while the United States produces ten. Policy measures are needed to revitalize domestic shipbuilding to address these challenges and enable the creation of a stable, sustainable shipbuilding sector. Essential to rehabilitating U.S. shipbuilding capabilities is maximizing the utilization of domestic industries that are part of the shipbuilding supply chain, especially American steelmakers. The American steel industry manufactures products, such as steel plate, that are essential materials used for construction of ocean-going vessels. Steel companies supply high-quality steel that directly support the construction of vessels critical to our economic and defense priorities.

Situation: Senators Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Todd Young (R-IN) have introduced the Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act of 2025 (S. 1541), bipartisan legislation that would enable a comprehensive approach to revitalize the United States shipbuilding and commercial maritime industries. The bill can help revive American-flagged commercial shipping and create tens of thousands of jobs at U.S. shipyards and within the entire shipbuilding supply chain across the U.S. In particular, the SHIPS for America Act will increase demand for domestic steel plate and other highly-specialized steel products essential for a revitalized American-made commercial shipbuilding industry.

Current Cosponsors (7D and 7R): Sens. Kelly, Young, Baldwin, Blumenthal, Fetterman, Gillibrand, Husted, Kim, McCormick, Moreno, Murkowski, Schatz, Scott, and Sullivan.

Request: Please cosponsor the SHIPS for America Act (S. 1541). This legislation will strengthen and expand the U.S. shipbuilding industrial base – enhancing U.S. national and economic security and restoring the competitiveness of America's shipbuilding sector, including the domestic steel industry. If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor the legislation, please contact Joe Russell with Senator Kelly at joe_russell@kelly.senate.gov or Douglas Gates with Senator Young at douglas_gates@young.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey".

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO