
American Boating Congress 2019



Monday, May 13 – Wednesday, May 15
www.nmma.org/abc

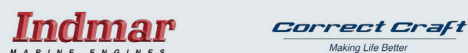


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PRESIDENT'S LEVEL



ADMIRAL'S LEVEL



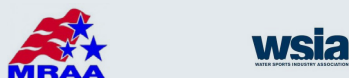
CAPTAIN'S LEVEL



FIRST MATE'S LEVEL



CO-HOST'S LEVEL



PURSER'S LEVEL



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Dear participants,

On behalf of the co-hosts and sponsors of the 2019 American Boating Congress (ABC), it is our great pleasure to welcome you to Washington, D.C. for the recreational boating industry's annual advocacy summit!

ABC is a unique opportunity to bring together the industry's diverse range of stakeholders, shape public policy, and present a unified front on issues that impact marine businesses. Most importantly, ABC offers you the rare platform to meet directly with your members of Congress and advocate on behalf of your company and the entire industry.

Ahead of the 2020 election, major policy decisions are on the horizon and it's critical that we're at the table with decision makers to influence priorities of the new Congress and White House and ensure a bright future for our industry. Our distinguished event co-hosts have worked together to create an agenda packed with timely and relevant policy matters, so that together, we can illuminate the importance of the recreational boating economy and be the best possible advocates. These 27 organizations, listed on the following pages, are an integral part of planning ABC, contributing time to program development, and encouraging their members to attend and participate in making ABC a success.

This year, we've secured a speaker line-up filled with some of Washington, D.C.'s most recognizable names—including Cabinet members, key Congressional leaders, and top media figures—to provide an in-depth look at the current political and policy state of play and answer industry and issue specific questions. Additionally, we have several workshops and breakout sessions that will address hot button topics and best practices for conducting meetings on Capitol Hill. A detailed agenda and speaker biographies are provided in this booklet.

Your co-hosts would like to extend our special thanks to this year's conference sponsors, listed on page 2, who have made ABC possible. We could not collectively host this important industry event without the generous support of all our partners.

We are delighted that you are here at a most important time in our nation's capital and can't thank you enough for your participation and commitment to the industry's long-term vibrancy. YOU are the best advocate to create positive change for the boating industry!

We hope your experience at ABC 2019 is educational, impactful, and memorable and we thank you for joining us to advocate for the recreational boating community!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Dammrich
President | National Marine Manufacturers Association

BRUNSWICK

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BOATS**

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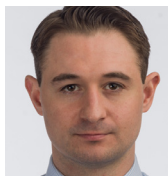
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Schedule of Events

*Indicates closed events by invitation only

MON MAY 13 · PROGRAMMING HELD AT THE RENAISSANCE & NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS				
7:00a – 5:30p	Registration	Renaissance, outside of Congressional Ballrooms		
8:00a – 12:00p	Recreational Boating Leadership Council Meeting*	Renaissance, Meeting Room 10/11		
11:00a – 12:30p	BoatPAC Committee Meeting*	Renaissance, Meeting Room 6		
Welcome Lunch & Awards Ceremony · Renaissance, Congressional Ballroom A & B				
12:30p – 1:30p	Join us for the opening of ABC 2019, a discussion on NMMA's advocacy efforts and recent successes at the state level, and the presenting of the Ambassador Award and the BoatPAC – The Champions for Growth Award. <small>SPONSORED BY GROUPE BENETEAU AND BOAT/US</small>			
Concurrent Issue Workshops · Renaissance, Breakout Rooms				
	MEETING ROOM 2	MEETING ROOM 4	MEETING ROOM 5	
1:40p – 2:20p	Recreation Infrastructure: Boating Matters in the Debate <small>SPONSORED BY BRUNSWICK AND MERCURY</small>	A Multifaceted Approach to Solving the Industry's Workforce Shortage <small>SPONSORED BY BRUNSWICK AND MERCURY</small>	What are the Long-Term Implications of a Large Yacht Registry in the U.S.?	
2:30p – 3:10p	Mitigating Impacts of Year-Round E15 Sales: Lawsuits, Legislation & Regulations <small>SPONSORED BY BRUNSWICK AND MERCURY</small>	Trade State of Play: Tariffs, Negotiations & Off-Ramps <small>SPONSORED BY BRUNSWICK AND MERCURY</small>	Navigating Visas & Cruising License Policies	
3:20p – 4:00p	Clean Water, Healthy Fisheries: Understanding the Industry's Conservation Priorities <small>SPONSORED BY BRUNSWICK AND MERCURY</small>	Boating Safety: The Latest U.S. Coast Guard Initiatives <small>SPONSORED BY HONDA MARINE</small>	How Changes to Taxation & Free Trade Zones Will Help American Marine Workers <small>SPONSORED BY YACHT BROKERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA</small>	
Board Meetings · Renaissance, Breakout Rooms				
	MEETING ROOM 10/11	MEETING ROOM 12/13	MEETING ROOM 3	FRANKLIN SQUARE
3:30p – 5:30p	Engine Manufacturers Division*	Marine Accessories & Components Division*	Boat Manufacturers Division*	Association of Marina Industries*
Welcome Networking Reception · National Museum of Women in the Arts				
6:00p – 8:00p	We invite you to celebrate the first night of ABC 2019 with a cocktail reception at the iconic National Museum of Women in the Arts – just a short walk from the Renaissance. In addition to great food and drinks, this is the perfect opportunity to meet (or reconnect) with industry stakeholders from across the country who traveled to DC for our annual summit.			

TUE MAY 14 · PROGRAMMING HELD AT THE RENAISSANCE, CAPITOL HILL & DISTRICT WINERY		
7:00a - 4:00p	Registration	Renaissance, outside of Congressional Ballroom
7:30a - 8:00a	Breakfast	Renaissance, Congressional Ballroom A & B SPONSORED BY BRUNSWICK AND MERCURY MARINE
Understanding the Issues & Advocacy 101 · Renaissance, Congressional Ballroom A & B		
8:00a - 9:15a	Before we head up to Capitol Hill, we encourage everyone to join us for a briefing on the industry's top policy priorities and how to be the most effective advocate in Congressional meetings. Additionally, we will present our first annual Advocate of the Year Award.	
Congressional Meetings & Related Activates · Capitol Hill		
9:30a	Transportation to Capitol Hill	Buses depart from the Renaissance and drop off at the U.S. Capitol Building – East Capitol Street between Second and Third Street
10:00a	Group Picture	Front of U.S. Capitol Building
10:30a - 5:00p	Hill Meetings	Basecamp room available for ABC participants – 122, Cannon House Office Building
12:00p - 1:00p	Young Professionals Luncheon*	Capitol Hill Club – 300 First Street, SE Washington, DC 20003
12:30p - 1:30p	BoatPAC High Donor Luncheon*	Capitol Hill Club – 300 First Street, SE Washington, DC 20003
Recreational Angling & Boating Reception · District Winery*		
6:00p - 8:30p	For questions on how to attend, please contact Erica Crocker at ecrocker@nmma.org . All attendees must fill out a prior approval form prior to attending. Shuttle busses will depart from the Renaissance at 5:30pm.	

WED MAY 15 · ALL PROGRAMMING HELD AT THE RENAISSANCE		
8:00a – 1:00p	Registration	Renaissance, outside of Congressional Ballroom
8:00a – 8:30a	Breakfast	Renaissance, Congressional Ballroom A & B
Featured Plenary Session · Renaissance, Congressional Ballroom A & B		
8:30a – 12:00p	We are proud to host the marquee session of ABC 2019 on the final morning, during which we will hear from top administration officials, key members of Congress, and leading media and political figures from both parties. We recommend that you arrive early, as seats close to the stage will fill up fast.	
Farewell Lunch & Awards Ceremony · Renaissance, Congressional Ballroom A & B		
12:00p – 1:00p	Join us for lunch as we say goodbye, preview ABC 2020 at our new location, and honor the recipients of the Eddie Smith Award and The Hammond Marine Industry Leadership Award.	

PROGRAMMING VENUES & ADDRESSES



RENAISSANCE WASHINGTON, DC DOWNTOWN HOTEL
999 Ninth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS
1250 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005



DISTRICT WINERY
385 Water Street SE, Washington, DC 20003



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**TUESDAY
MAY 14, 2019**

6:00PM-8:30PM

**RSVP TO
ERICA CROCKER:**

ecrocker@nmma.org | 214-336-1257

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

CAPTAIN'S LEVEL



FIRST MATE'S LEVEL



PURSER'S LEVEL



IF YOU ARE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL OR CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT YOUR ETHICS OFFICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ATTENDING THIS EVENT. ONLY INVITED AND CONFIRMED GUESTS MAY ATTEND. MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO ATTEND.

Concurrent Issue Workshops

Recreation Infrastructure: Boating Matters in the Debate

**MEETING
ROOM 2**

1:40p-2:20p

**SPONSORED BY
BRUNSWICK AND
MERCURY**

The beginning of the 116th Congress has seen significant momentum on infrastructure, with both sides of the aisle expressing a strong appetite for moving legislation to revitalize and modernize the nation's infrastructure. While roads, bridges, and commercial airports are traditionally the main components in broad-scale infrastructure legislative measures, come learn about why recreational infrastructure deserves a seat at the table as Congress looks to tackle our nation's infrastructure challenges.

Mitigating Impacts of Year-Round E15 Sales: Lawsuits, Legislation & Regulations

**MEETING
ROOM 2**

2:30p-3:10p

**SPONSORED BY
BRUNSWICK AND
MERCURY**

President Trump made a commitment to farmers that his administration would be opening the door to year-round sales of gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol (E15), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is executing on the president's campaign promise. As a part of the rulemaking process, the EPA is considering adopting additional consumer protection measures, which NMMA advocated for and helped secure.

Panelists will discuss the implications of year-round E15 for consumers and the environment, efforts to mitigate E15 misfuelling legislatively, and provide insights on the politics surrounding fuel policy.

Clean Water, Healthy Fisheries: Understanding the Industry's Conservation Priorities

**MEETING
ROOM 2**

3:20p-4:00p

**SPONSORED BY
BRUNSWICK AND
MERCURY**

Conservation plays an essential role in providing recreational boaters with access to the water—today and for generations to come. Recognizing that access means nothing without healthy waterways, recreational boaters and anglers have been at the forefront of supporting conservation initiatives to protect the health of our fisheries, habitat, and water quality.

At this session you can learn about: how regional issues impacting the boating industry are being addressed by Congress, how conservation is integral to the ability of boaters to get out on the water, and the associated economic impacts the industry has in coastal and lakeside communities.

A Multifaceted Approach to Solving the Industry's Workforce Shortage

MEETING ROOM 4

1:40p-2:20p

SPONSORED BY
BRUNSWICK AND
MERCURY

The recreational boating industry is facing a shortfall of qualified workers for manufacturing, technicians, and service repair jobs. With a shortage of 31,000 workers, 21 percent of unfilled positions are in retail and 59 percent of open jobs are in boating service. In addition to apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and Pell grant expansion, the industry would benefit from comprehensive immigration reform to fill these skilled labor positions.

NMMA recently conducted a survey of its members to gather input about the industry's workforce challenges, which will help NMMA identify solutions for attracting and retaining qualified workers. Join us as we walk through findings from the survey and discuss comprehensive solutions to address this challenge.

Trade State of Play: Tariffs, Negotiations & Off-Ramps

MEETING ROOM 4

2:30p-3:10p

SPONSORED BY
BRUNSWICK AND
MERCURY

The U.S. marine industry is facing a 1-2-3 punch from worldwide tariffs on steel and aluminum, anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Chinese aluminum sheets, and Section 301 tariffs on nearly 350 marine products. Additionally, due to retaliatory tariffs on all boats from our top trading partners, the industry's \$1.3 billion export market has suffered.

While the U.S. continues to negotiate trade agreements with its counterparts in China and the European Union (EU), the U.S., Mexico, and Canada reached a new agreement—the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). With the potential ratification of USMCA by Congress on the horizon, our industry has advocated for ending the retaliatory tariffs with the final approval of USCMA.

Join us for a panel discussion to learn the latest on these negotiations and agreements as well as how the marine industry is faring after more than a year of tit-for-tat trade wars.

Boating Safety: The Latest U.S. Coast Guard Initiatives

MEETING ROOM 4

3:20p-4:00p

SPONSORED BY
HONDA MARINE

The U.S. marine industry works together with the U.S. Coast Guard to improve boating safety for the 142 million Americans who take to the water every year. Late last year, Congress approved the Coast Guard Authorization Act, which included several provisions that directly improve the safety of recreational boaters across the country.

As Congress begins working on the next Coast Guard reauthorization bill, join us for a panel discussion on the U.S. Coast Guard's priorities for the year and recent initiatives to improve the safety of the hundreds of millions of Americans who participate in recreational boating each year.

What are the Long-Term Implications of a Large Yacht Registry in the U.S.?

MEETING ROOM 5

1:40p-2:20p

With the stroke of President Trump's pen last summer, patriotic yacht owners are now able to fly an American flag and register their yachts—over 300 GT—in the U.S. This new legislation modernizes outdated laws and brings the U.S. in line with current times.

So, what's next? Join the U.S. Superyacht Association as we take a deep dive into what this change means and where we go from here.

Navigating Visas and Cruising License Policies

MEETING ROOM 5

2:30p-3:10p

Large, foreign flagged recreational vessels visiting U.S. marinas that are being refitted at U.S. boatyards represent a tremendous amount economic activity and job creation. The annual operating budget for a 140' yacht exceeds two million dollars. However, for foreign flagged recreational vessels to visit the U.S., the crews must be issued the appropriate visas, and the yacht may need a cruising license. These hurdles diminish the U.S.'s global competitiveness in the yachting sector, ultimately impacting U.S. jobs and our industry.

A panel featuring State Department Visa Services representative, Marc Snider and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials will address the intricacies of getting the correct visas issued, operating under a cruising license in U.S. waters, and the regulatory policies that surround them.

How Changes to Taxation & Free Trade Zones Will Help American Marine Workers

MEETING ROOM 5

3:20p-4:00p

SPONSORED BY
YACHT BROKERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA

Interested in encouraging over \$2.46 billion in U.S. economic activity that could generate thousands of well-paying American jobs? Free Trade Zones (FTZ) are important tools for allowing the industry to land, store, and manufacture products that will be re-exported without being subject to a duty. Come learn how an FTZ can help your business cope in the current trade climate.

Special Sessions + Events



Questions about your Hill Meetings? Contact Bobbie Jo Ballard at: bobbiejo@primeadvocacy.com or 618-975-4471

Welcome Lunch & Awards Presentation

MON MAY 13

12:30p-1:30p

SPONSORED BY
GROUPE BENETEAU
AND BOAT/US

Please join us for lunch as we officially kick off the 2019 American Boating Congress. This session will feature a “State of the States” panel discussion examining the industry’s advocacy efforts in all 50 states and the presentation of two noteworthy industry awards:

- **Ambassador Award:** Given annually to the ABC Co-host who has done the most significant promotion of ABC.
- **BoatPAC – The Champions for Growth Award:** Given annually to a company that has recognized the importance of BoatPAC’s mission and advocacy.

Understanding the Issues & Advocacy 101

TUE MAY 14

8:00a-9:15a

The recreational boating industry is facing major policy decisions, many that will culminate this summer and have long-term impacts on boating in the U.S. Some of these issues include the pending ratification of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the likely year-round sale of E15, and securing a “Recreation Title” in a comprehensive infrastructure package. This session will educate you on the current political climate, prepare you on our industry’s top issues, and give insight on how to maximize your advocacy efforts while at ABC.

Group Photo in Front of U.S. Capitol Building

TUE MAY 14

10:00a

Before heading off to your Hill meetings, we will meet for a group photo in front of the U.S. Capitol Building. Buses depart the Renaissance at 9:30am and will drop folks off on Capitol Hill – East Capitol Street between Second and Third Street.

Basecamp Room on Capitol Hill during Hill Meetings

TUE MAY 14

10:30a-5:00p

Just like last year, we secured a room in Cannon House Office Building, Room 122, from 10:30am-5:00pm on Tuesday during your Congressional meetings. Attendees are welcome to use this room as basecamp to take a break, grab a water, network with colleagues, etc.

Young Professionals Luncheon

TUE MAY 14

12:00p-1:00p

In the wake of last year’s successful “Millennial Happy Hour,” we invite the industry’s young professionals for lunch and a new networking opportunity with Capitol Hill staffers. The Young Professionals Luncheon is at the Capitol Hill Club – 300 First Street, SE Washington, DC 20003.

Recreational Angling & Boating Reception

TUE MAY 14

6:00p-8:30p

BoatPAC supporters are invited to cocktail reception at the critically acclaimed District Winery in Navy Yard for a gathering with fellow PAC donors, as well as an opportunity to meet members of Congress and their staff and educate them on the top issues affecting the recreational boating community. **For information on how to attend, please contact Erica Crocker at ecrocker@nmma.org.**

Featured Plenary Session

WED MAY 15

8:30a-12:00p

You are not going to want to miss this part of the program. Bret Baier—FOX News chief political anchor and host of Special Report with Bret Baier—will headline and facilitate a robust political debate between preeminent strategists Adrienne Elrod and Kevin Madden during this year’s featured plenary session. You will also have a front row seat to remarks from high profile members of the Trump Administration—including Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler—and leading decision makers and influencers across Capitol Hill.

Additionally, a panel discussion on implementing the Modern Fish Act will take place during the featured plenary session, along with presentations of the States Organization for Boating Access Congressional Award and NMMA’s Legislator Award.

Farewell Lunch & Awards Ceremony

WED MAY 15

12:30p-1:30p

Join us as we wrap up ABC 2019 for a farewell lunch and presentation of several significant industry awards including:

- **The Eddie Smith Manufacturer of the Year Award:** Honoring leaders in conservation.
- **The Hammond Marine Industry Leadership Award:** Celebrating individuals who have helped the marine industry get to where it is today in terms of achieving greater industry sales, stopping unwanted government regulations or seeking needed government regulation, or otherwise helping and benefiting the whole marine industry as distinct from building one’s own company.

Conference Speakers

BRET BAIER



**FOX NEWS CHIEF
POLITICAL ANCHOR
AND HOST OF
SPECIAL REPORT
WITH BRET BAIER**

Bret Baier currently serves as FOX News Channel's (FNC) chief political anchor and anchor of Special Report with Bret Baier (weeknights 6-7PM/ET), the top-rated cable news program in its timeslot and consistently one of the top five shows in cable news. Based in Washington, D.C., Baier joined the network in 1998 as the first reporter in the Atlanta bureau.

During the 2012 political season, he served as co-anchor of FNC's America's Election HQ alongside Megyn Kelly. In addition, Baier provided extensive coverage of the 2012 campaign cycle, anchoring Presidential and Vice Presidential debates, as well as the Republican and Democratic conventions. Baier also moderated FOX News Channel's five Republican presidential primary debates. Baier, Kelly and Chris Wallace anchored three GOP debates for Fox News Channel in 2016 with the debate in Cleveland, OH reaching a record 24 million viewers. He interviewed all of the presidential candidates, including Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders in a Democratic town hall, for Special Report. Baier continues to provide extensive political coverage for FOX News Channel.

During his tenure at the network, Baier has interviewed President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, former President Barack Obama, former President George W. Bush and former Vice President Dick Cheney. He has also anchored more than thirty political specials on FNC, reported from Iraq 12 times and Afghanistan 13 times, traveled the world with various administrations and military officials and reported from 74 countries. Special Report with Bret Baier was acknowledged by TIME magazine's Joe Klein as the only "straight newscast" in cable news at 6PM/ET. Bret was also recently awarded the 2017 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism.

Prior to his anchor role, Baier was named chief White House correspondent in 2006 and covered the second term of the Bush Administration. Before that, he served as national security correspondent covering military and national security affairs, as well as defense, military policy and the intelligence community from the Pentagon.

JOE CUNNINGHAM



**CONGRESSMAN
(SC-01)**

Joe Cunningham proudly represents South Carolina's First Congressional District. The First District encompasses South Carolina's Lowcountry, including Charleston, Mt. Pleasant, Kiawah, and Hilton Head. Joe is a proud father and husband and is serving his first term in the United States Congress.

Joe currently serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. The Committee on Natural Resources oversees federal conservation programs, establishes renewable energy sources, and critical to the Lowcountry, monitors offshore oil and gas development. Joe is honored to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and ensure Lowcountry veterans and their families receive the best and most reliable care, services, and benefits.

Prior to his election to Congress, Joe was an attorney and an ocean engineer. In Congress, Joe's priorities include reinstating the ban on offshore drilling off the Atlantic coast, reducing the cost of healthcare, protecting and creating Lowcountry jobs, combating climate change and investing in renewable resources.

Joe attended the College of Charleston, obtained his B.S. in Ocean Engineering from Florida Atlantic University in 2005, and his J.D. from Northern Kentucky University in 2014. He currently lives in West Ashley with his wife, Amanda, their son, Boone, and their dog, Teddy.

ADRIENNE ELROD



ELROD STRATEGIES

Adrienne Elrod is a Democratic political strategist and a Contributor to NBC and MSNBC, providing commentary and analysis informed by her over two decades of experience serving at the highest level of government and campaigns. She also serves as President of Elrod Strategies, a strategic communications firm specializing in influencer engagement that counts a wide range of progressive companies, nonprofits and “resistance” organizations as its clients.

On the 2016 presidential campaign, Elrod served as Hillary for America’s Director of Strategic Communications and Surrogates, overseeing the campaign’s vast surrogate operation, and deploying elected officials, celebrities, and other influencers across the nation and on TV, radio, and digital platforms. Previously, Elrod served as Vice President and Communications Director for American Bridge and Correct the Record, a joint communications and research organization founded in order to defend Hillary Clinton from false and misleading attacks.

On Hillary Clinton’s 2008 presidential campaign, Elrod served as Regional Press Secretary, Texas Communications Director, and Deputy Director of the Congressional Delegate Selection office.

A native of Arkansas, Elrod began her political career in President Clinton’s Administration, serving in both the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Elrod has also served as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), managing legislative and communications agendas for a senior member of the Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees.

GARRET GRAVES



CONGRESSMAN
(LA-06)

Congressman Garret Graves is a Republican Member of Congress representing Louisiana’s Sixth Congressional District – 13 parishes stretching north of Baton Rouge through the Capital Region down to Louisiana’s Bayou country. Graves sits on the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Natural Resources.

For the 116th Congress, Garret is Ranking Member for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation and is the Ranking Member of the new Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Last Congress, Graves chaired the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment and was instrumental in the development, passage and enactment of a range of policy wins on rivers, levees, flood protection, coastal issues and Corps of Engineers reforms. He also brought about critical upgrades to federal disaster response and recovery programs, streamlining FEMA operations, creating faster recoveries and helping make communities across the nation more resilient to disaster.

Though he has only been in office a short time, Garret and his team have established a record of advancing Louisiana’s priorities through Congress – making a positive difference here at home.

Garret’s leadership on transportation, infrastructure, energy, maritime, fisheries, coastal restoration, disaster and other issues critical to our state’s economy and way of life are an asset in Congress.

Garret is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he still resides with his wife Carissa and their three children.

CAPTAIN SCOTT L. JOHNSON



CHIEF, OFFICE OF AUXILIARY AND BOATING SAFETY

Captain Johnson is the Chief of the Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety where he serves as the Chief Director of the Coast Guard Auxiliary as well as the National Coordinator for the National Recreational Boating Safety Program.

His previous assignment was a Division Chief in the Coast Guard's Office of Design and Engineering Standards where he led the development of U.S. national maritime safety and environmental protection regulations and policies for complex shipping, oil and gas projects. In his tenure, Captain Johnson produced standards for dynamic positions systems, safety management systems and portable accommodation systems, as well as numerous novel ship designs.

In 2010, Captain Johnson was assigned to Sector Anchorage in Alaska as the Chief of Prevention. In this role, he was responsible for all Marine Safety, Waterways Management, and Port Security missions in Western Alaska. Previous assignments include serving as Division Chief of the Tank Vessel and Offshore Division at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center in Washington D.C., Executive Officer of Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge, as a marine inspector and investigating officer at Marine Safety Office New Orleans, and as an engineering officer aboard Coast Guard Cutter ALERT.

Captain Johnson is a graduate of Norwich University and the Naval Postgraduate School. A native of Covington, Louisiana, Captain Johnson and his wife Tamara currently reside on a homestead farm in northern Virginia with their five children.

JEFFREY KRAUSE



CHIEF, NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Jeff Krause is the Chief of Natural Resources Management (NRM) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Regulatory Division in Washington, D.C. He directs Corps programs for the development, management, and conservation of natural resources on 12 million acres of Civil Works lands and waters.

The NRM programs include recreation, environmental compliance, environmental stewardship, partnerships, water safety, land uses, program funding, and strategic planning for over 400 projects and more than 5,000 recreation sites. The Corps of Engineers projects include more than 4 million acres of water, 3,754 boat ramps, 562 marina concessions and 5,000 bass tournaments that provide \$11 billion in visitor spending.

Previously, Mr. Krause was the Corps national program manager for the environmental stewardship business line with responsibilities for the development of budget, policy and guidance on forest, fish, wildlife and land management resources, issues and challenges across 43 states. Mr. Krause also worked as a wildlife biologist with the Baltimore District.

Mr. Krause is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania and Hood College. Mr. Krause is an avid fisherman and hunter and enjoys hunting and fishing trips with his son, Keith who lives in Pennsylvania near a Corps of Engineers lake.

**BECAUSE OUT ON THE WATER
IS WHERE WE FIND COMMON GROUND.**



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KEVIN MADDEN



HAMILTON PLACE STRATEGIES

Kevin Madden is a partner at Hamilton Place Strategies, where he serves as an adviser and counselor to a client roster that includes the nation's top corporations, business associations, industry coalitions, foundations and non-profits.

With a record of over 20 years of experience operating in some of the most high-profile national debates—from Wall Street to Washington—Kevin leads HPS teams in the design and management of comprehensive, modern, and effective public affairs campaigns, working with CEOs and their executive teams to navigate today's challenging media environment.

Prior to his leadership role as a partner at HPS, Kevin served as a senior adviser, strategist and spokesman on three presidential campaigns from 2004 to 2016. In addition to his national campaign experience, Kevin was a top congressional leadership staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving as spokesman and communications strategist in the Office of the House Majority Leader. Kevin also served as Deputy Director of Public Affairs and national spokesman for the Department of Justice.

Kevin's experience with today's modern media, as a frequent guest on national and international cable and broadcast news outlets, has earned him a reputation as a sought-after media strategist and crisis communications manager. Kevin also currently serves on the advisory board of the Bipartisan Policy Center Action Network.

BRIAN MAST



**CONGRESSMAN
(FL-18)**

Congressman Brian Mast is in his second term representing the 18th Congressional District of Florida. Prior to his election to Congress, Brian followed in his father's footsteps by serving in the U.S. Army for more than 12 years, earning medals including The Bronze Star Medal, The Army Commendation Medal for Valor, The Purple Heart Medal, and The Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

While deployed in Afghanistan, he worked as a bomb disposal expert under the elite Joint Special Operations Command. The last improvised explosive device that he found resulted in catastrophic injuries, which included the loss of both of his legs.

While lying in bed recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center, Brian's father gave him advice that has stuck with him to this day—to ensure the greatest service he gave to our country and the best example he set for his children was still ahead of him. Brian took this advice to heart and dedicated himself to finding new ways to serve our country and his community.

Brian remained on active duty following the injuries and provided expertise to the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms during his recovery process. After his retirement from the Army, he continued working in counter-terrorism and national defense as an Explosive Specialist with the Department of Homeland Security. Brian subsequently received a degree from the Harvard Extension School and volunteered to serve alongside the Israel Defense Forces to show support for the freedom Israel represents throughout the Middle East and the world.

In Congress, Brian strives to serve as he did on the battlefield: without regard for personal gain or personal sacrifice. He is a member of two committees: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where his priorities include fixing the pressing water quality issues stemming from Lake Okeechobee; and The Foreign Affairs Committee, where he uses his military expertise to help strengthen the safety and security of the United States.

Brian lives in Palm City, Fla. with his wife Brianna and four children, Magnum, Maverick, Major and Madalyn.

CHELLIE PINGREE



**CONGRESSWOMAN
(ME-01)**

Chellie Pingree represents the First District of Maine in the U.S. House of Representatives.

She is a member of the Appropriations Committee, serving on three subcommittees: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration; Interior, Environment; and Military Construction, Veterans Administration. In addition, this year she rejoins the House Agriculture Committee. Chellie is an advocate for reforming federal policy to better support the diverse range of American agriculture—including sustainable, organic, and locally focused farming.



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SeaStar

WILBUR ROSS

**UNITED STATES
SECRETARY OF
COMMERCE**

Wilbur Ross was sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence as the 39th Secretary of Commerce on February 28, 2017. Secretary Ross is the principal voice of business in the Trump Administration, ensuring that U.S. entrepreneurs and businesses have the tools they need to create jobs and economic opportunity.

Secretary Ross is the former Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer of WL Ross & Co. LLC and has over 55 years of investment banking and private equity experience. He has restructured over \$400 billion of assets in the airline, apparel, auto parts, banking, beverage, chemical, credit card, electric utility, food service, furniture, gypsum, homebuilding, insurance, marine transport, mortgage origination and servicing, oil and gas, railcar manufacturing and leasing, real estate, restaurant, shipyard, steel, textile and trucking industries. Secretary Ross has been chairman or lead director of more than 100 companies operating in more than 20 different countries.

Named by Bloomberg Markets as one of the 50 most influential people in global finance, Secretary Ross is the only person elected to both the Private Equity Hall of Fame and the Turnaround Management Hall of Fame. He previously served as privatization adviser to New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the board of the U.S.-Russia Investment Fund. President Kim Dae-jung awarded Secretary Ross a medal for helping South Korea during its financial crisis and, in November 2014, the Emperor of Japan awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

As a philanthropist, Secretary Ross has served as Chairman of the Japan Society, Trustee of the Brookings Institution and Chairman of its Economic Studies Council, International Counsel Member of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, Trustee of the Blenheim Foundation, President of the American Friends of the Rene Magritte Museum in Brussels and Director of the Palm Beach Civic Association. He also was an Advisory Board Member of Yale University School of Management.

Secretary Ross is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Business School (with distinction). He and his wife Hilary Geary Ross have four children, Jessica Ross, Amanda Ross, Ted Geary and Jack Geary.



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RICK SCOTT

SENATOR (FL)

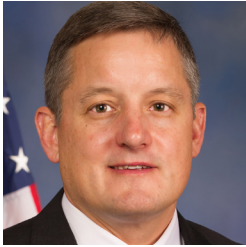
Rick Scott was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2018 and is currently serving his first term representing the state of Florida.

Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Rick Scott served two terms as the 45th Governor of Florida, working every day to turn around Florida's economy and secure the state's future as the best place for families and businesses to succeed.

Scott grew up in public housing in the Midwest as his adoptive father, a World War II veteran and truck driver, and his mother, a store clerk, struggled to financially support their family. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Ann, Scott joined the Navy, where he served active duty as a radar man aboard the USS Glover. He used the G.I. Bill to attend the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and eventually opened his first business—a donut shop. Scott went on to run the world's largest healthcare company and continues to fight every day so families across the state can have the same opportunities he had to live the American dream.

Rick Scott and his wife, Ann, have been married for 46 years and have two daughters, Allison and Jordan, and six grandsons, Auguste, Quinton, Sebastian, Eli, Louie and Jude.

BRUCE WESTERMAN



**CONGRESSMAN
(AR-04)**

Congressman Bruce Westerman is a Hot Springs native currently serving his third term as representative from the Fourth District of Arkansas, having first been elected in 2014. Westerman serves on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where he is Ranking Member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee.

Prior to serving in Congress, Westerman was elected to two terms in the Arkansas General Assembly, where he was the state's first Republican House Majority Leader since Reconstruction following the 2013 GOP takeover of the Arkansas House of Representatives.

An engineer and forester by trade, Westerman worked for 22 years at Mid-South Engineering in Hot Springs. He was named Engineer of the Year by the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers in 2013.

A 1990 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Westerman was a four-year walk-on member of the Razorback football team. Westerman is also a graduate of Yale University, earning a Master of Forestry degree. Westerman lives in Hot Springs with his wife, Sharon, and their four children. He enjoys hunting and fishing.

ANDREW WHEELER



**ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY**

On February 28, 2019, the U.S. Senate confirmed Andrew Wheeler as the fifteenth Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. President Donald J. Trump had announced his appointment as the Acting EPA Administrator on July 5, 2018. Mr. Wheeler had previously been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the EPA Deputy Administrator on April 12, 2018.

Mr. Wheeler has dedicated his career to advancing sound environmental policies. He began his career during the George H. W. Bush Administration as a Special Assistant in EPA's Pollution Prevention and Toxics office.

He was a Principal and the team leader of the Energy and Environment Practice Group at FaegreBD Consulting, as well as Counsel at Faegre Baker Daniels law firm, where he practiced since 2009. He also served as the Co-chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Industry team across the entire firm.

Prior to his work with the firm, Mr. Wheeler served for six years as the Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel, as well as the Minority Staff Director, of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Before his time at the full Senate EPW Committee, Mr. Wheeler served in a similar capacity for six years for the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, Wetlands and Nuclear Safety. Mr. Wheeler is the past Chairman of the National Energy Resource Organization (NERO) and a Stennis Fellow. Mr. Wheeler is also an Eagle Scout.

Mr. Wheeler was born in Hamilton, Ohio. He completed his law degree at Washington University in St. Louis, his MBA at George Mason University, and his undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University in English and Biology.



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Attendee Roster

Roster as of 05/01/2019

ABYC FOUNDATION	Burger Boat Company
Aere Marine Group	California Yacht Brokers Association
AIM Media - Soundings Trade Only	Captain Sandy Inc.
Air Improvement Resource, Inc.	Carver County Board of Commissioners
Alumcraft Boat Co.	Center for Quality Assurance
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.	Center for Sportfishing Policy
American Sportfishing Association	ChannelPRO Mobile
ASA Electronics	Chaparral/Robalo Boats
Association of Marina Industries	Chris Craft Corporation
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association	Coburn Associates
AustinBlu Foundation	Coldwell Banker Premier Group
Avalon & Tahoe Mfg., Inc.	Colony Hardware
Avon Dixon Agency	ComMar
BayWater Boat Club & Rentals	Correct Craft
Baywood Marina	C-PORT
Beneteau Inc.	CT Marine Trades Association
Boat Planet	DockMaster Software
Boating Industry	Dometic
Boating Trade Association of Houston	Dunlap Group
Boatrax	Everglades Boats
Boats Group	Fair Haven Yacht Works
Boatsetter	Faria Beede Instruments, Inc.
BoatU.S.	Fireboy-Xintex LLC
Bonnier Corp	Fleet Miami
Bristol Marine	Forbes Tate Partners
BRP	Forever Resorts
BRP Marine Group	Freedom Boat Club
Brunswick Boat Group	Glen Raven
Brunswick Corporation	GOST

www.nmma.org/abc

2019 American Boating Congress

Grady-White Boats, Inc.
Groupe Beneteau Americas
GSW and Associates
Hamilton Place Strategies
Harris County
HOFFMASTERS MARINA INC.
Horizon Holdings
IBEX Show
Ilmor Engineering, Inc.
Ilmor Marine
IMTRA Corporation
Indmar Marine Engines
Infinity Woven Products LLC
Informa U.S. Boating
Innovative Laminations Co., Inc.
International Boating Industry
International Special Risks
International Yacht Brokers Association
IWWF (International Water Ski and Wakeboard Federation)
IYBA
Jeanneau America Inc.
JL Marine Systems Inc
K&L Gates LLP
Kop-Coat / Pettit Paint
Kotz Sangster
Lake Erie Marine Trades Association
Lighthouse Consulting Group
Magic Tilt
Malibu Boats, Inc. (MBUU)
Manning Gross + Massenburg LLP

Marine Accessories Corporation
Marine Concepts
Marine Industries Association of South Florida
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Marine Trades Association of New Jersey
MarineMax
Maritime Solutions
Massachusetts Marine Trades Association
MasterCraft Boat Holdings, Inc.
Mastry Engine Center
Maverick Boat Group
McCarthy's Marine
Medallion Bank
MegayachtNews.com
Mercury Marine
Mercury Marine a Division of Brunswick
Michigan Boating Industries Association
Midwest Industries
Mount Dora Boating Center
National Boating Federation
National Marine Distributors Association
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
National Safe Boating Council
National Wildlife Federation
NAUTIC-ON
Navico, Inc.
NorCross Marine Products, Inc.
Northpoint Commercial Finance
NW Marine Trade Association
Ocean Havens Distinct Waterfront Properties

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Pirate Cove Marina
Polaris Industries
Potomac Marine
Proximity Innovations
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
Recreational Fishing Alliance
Regulator Marine, Inc.
Rescue Marine
RI Marine Trades Association
Ritchie Navigation
S2 Yachts, Inc.
Safe Harbor Marinas
Safe Sea
Sail America
Saunders Yachtworks
Sea Tow Services International
SeaDek Marine Products
SGL Sales & Marketing
Smith Advocacy
Smoker Craft, Inc.
SOBA
Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association
Spicer's Boat City
Sportsman Boats Mfg Inc.
Sterling Acceptance Corporation
Stingray Boats
Structural Composites, Inc. and Comsys Inc.
SunTrust Bank

SureShade
Suzuki Motor of America, Inc.
Syntec Industries
TACO Metals, Inc.
Taylor Made a Lippert Components Company
Thunderbird Products
TOHATSU CORPORATION
TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral
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Transshield, Inc.
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U.S. Superyacht Association
United Island & Yacht
VesselVanguard
VETUS Maxwell, Inc.
Viking Sport Cruisers
Vitrifigo America
Volvo Penta of the Americas
Ward's Marine Electric
Water Sports Industry Association
Westrec Marinas
White River Marine Group
Xylem
Yacht Brokers Association of America
Yamaha Marine Group Company
Yamaha Motor Corp.
YATCO

Getting Around Town

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Welcome Networking Reception



SHORT WALK

MON MAY 13

6:00p-8:00p

The Networking Reception will be held at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, located at 1250 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005.

Group Photo in Front of U.S. Capitol and Hill Visits



BUSES PROVIDED

TUE MAY 14

9:30a

Join us for the ABC group photo in front of the U.S. Capitol Building at 10:00am before heading off to your Hill meetings. At 9:30a.m., buses will pick up attendees from the Renaissance and drop off them off at the U.S. Capitol—East Capitol Street, between Second & Third Street.

Recreational Angling & Boating Reception



SHUTTLE BUSES PROVIDED

TUE MAY 14

6:00p-8:30p

The Recreational Angling and Boating Reception will be held at District Winery, 385 Water St SE, Washington, DC 20003. **Transportation will be provided**, departing from the Renaissance Hotel at the corner of New York Ave. and 9th Street.

DEPARTURE SCHEDULE	RETURN SCHEDULE
5:30p	8:15p
5:45p	8:40p
6:05p	9:05p



2019 EDDIE SMITH MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR AWARD

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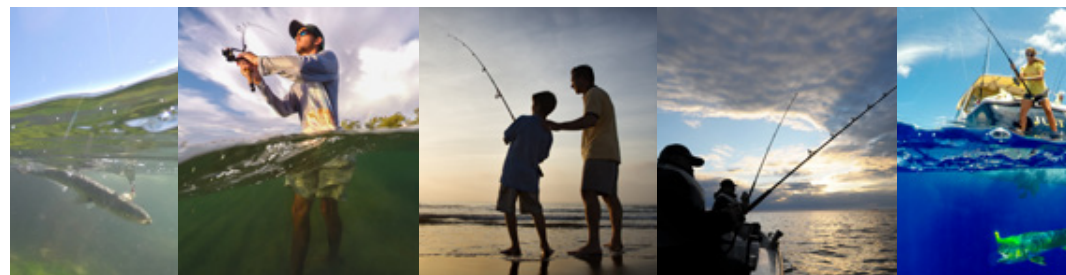
NMMA President THOM DAMMRICH

*A visionary leader for recreational
boating and fishing*



Center for
Sportfishing Policy

THE POLITICAL ARM OF
**MARINE
CONSERVATION**



THE HAMMOND MARINE INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Hammond Marine Industry Leadership Award honors individuals who have helped the marine industry get to where it is today in terms of achieving greater industry sales, stopping unwanted government regulations or seeking needed government regulation, or otherwise helping and benefiting the whole marine industry as distinct from building one's own company.

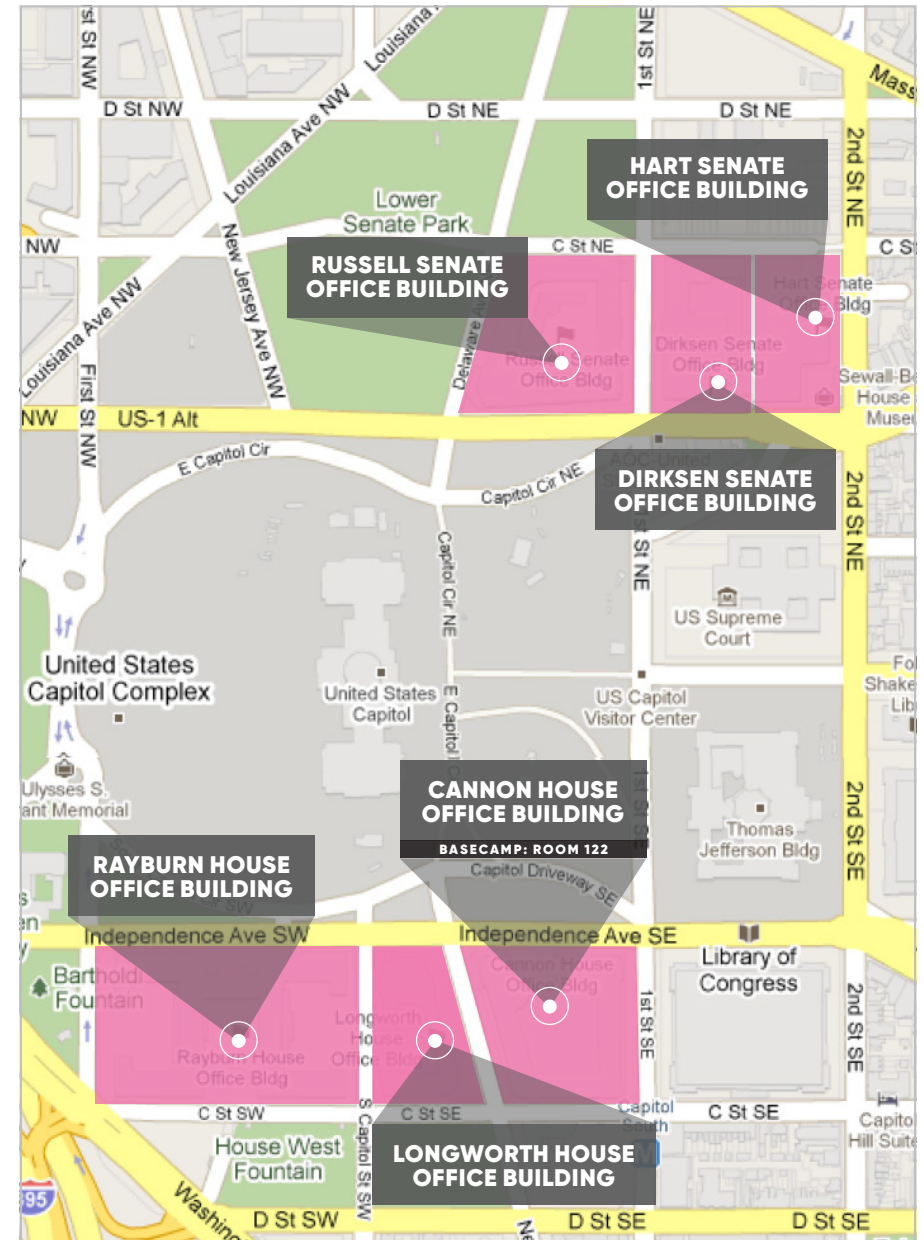
2019 Honoree



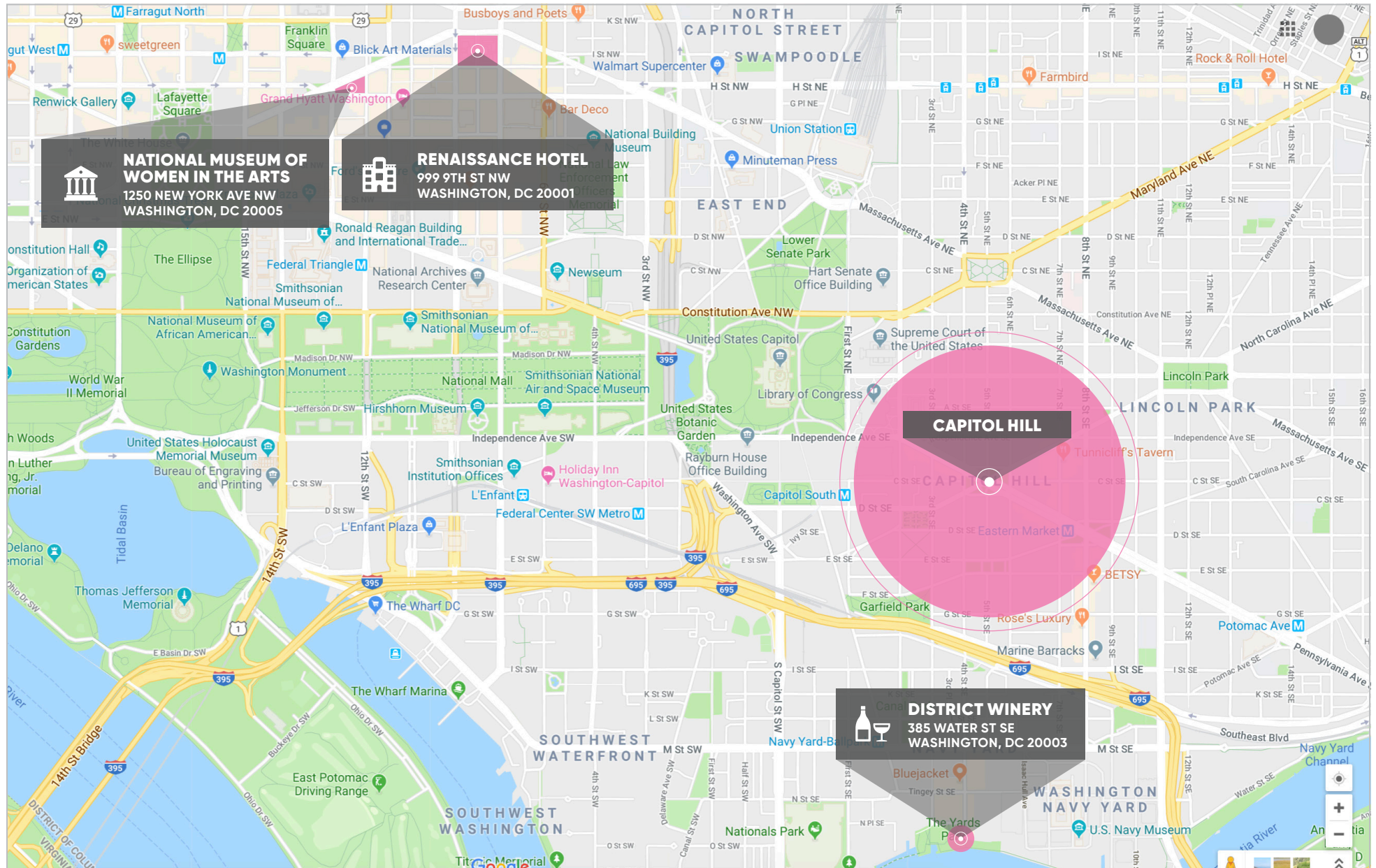
BILL YEARGIN

PRESIDENT & CEO OF CORRECT CRAFT

Capitol Hill Map



Event Map



42

The floor plan shows a large building with a central blacked-out area. Rooms are numbered 1 through 16. Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are highlighted in orange. Rooms 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are white. There are three rest rooms: one at the top, one at the bottom left, and one at the bottom right. The building is situated between Mount Vernon Square to the west and Franklin Square to the east.

Restaurant Recommendations

All restaurants are within walking distance of the Renaissance Hotel:

ITALIAN

RPM ITALIAN

www.rpmrestaurants.com/rpmitalian/dc



ALTA STRADA

www.altastrada-cityvista.com



CENTROLINA

www.centrolinadc.com



VAPIANOS

www.us.vapiano.com



FRENCH/ITALIAN/MEDITERRANEAN

FIG AND OLIVE

www.figandolive.com



FRENCH

DGBG

www.dgbg.com/dc



AMERICAN

FARMERS AND DISTILLERS

www.farmersanddistillers.com



PENN COMMONS

www.penncommonsdc.com



MATCHBOX

www.matchboxrestaurants.com



CLYDE'S

www.clydes.com/gallery-place



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www.busboysandpoets.com



YARD HOUSE

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* Emissions claim based on reported certified emissions of Evinrude E-TEC G2 250 H.O., Yamaha 250 SHO® and Mercury OptiMax® 250 Pro XS™. Actual emissions dependent on engine model.
** Fuel economy claim based on BRP-conducted ICOMIA testing of Evinrude E-TEC G2 250 H.O., Yamaha 250 SHO® and Mercury OptiMax® 250 HP in a test tank to determine ICOMIA average cycle. Actual fuel economy dependent on engine model.

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*not sit down

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ABC Smartphone App Download Instructions

Don't forget to download our free app, American Boating Congress (ABC Lobby) today and take advantage of its resources and tools that will make ABC 2019 the best conference yet!

To get started, search for American Boating Congress in the app store of your Apple or Android and follow the free download instructions. **NOTE: If you used the app in previous years, be sure to update it to enjoy all of the newest features.**

We've provided a step-by-step guide below:

IPHONE

1

Click on your App Store



2

Type in the search bar
"American Boating Congress"

SAMSUNG / ANDROID

1

Click on your Google Play Store



2

Type in the search bar
"American Boating Congress"
or "ABC Lobby"

3

Look for this ABC Lobby App icon then hit "install"

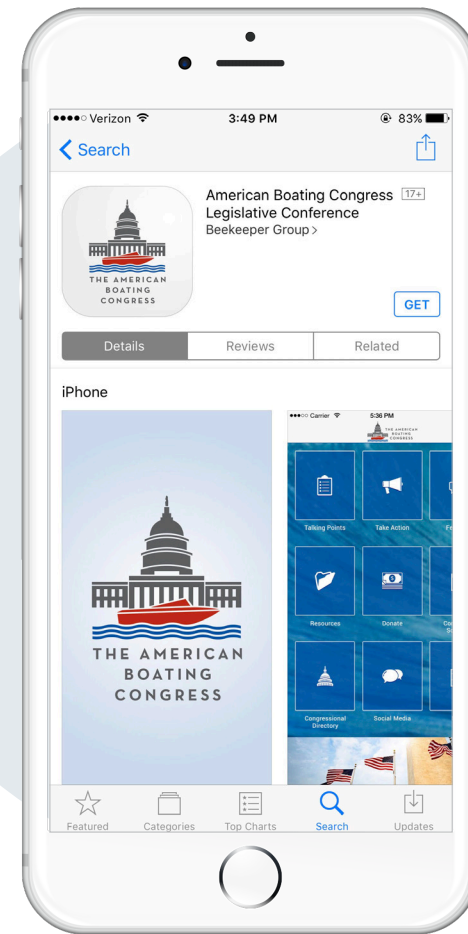


4

When it is finished installing, it will be ready to open!

NEED HELP?

Speak with **Libby Yranski** who can help guide you through any difficulties.



APP FEATURES

- Google Map of the Capitol
- Schedule of events including ABC agenda, receptions and Hill visits
- Policy brief document and talking points to guide your conversations with Members of Congress
- Congressional Directory
- Direct links to take action through Boating United
- LIVE social media updates and sharing center

NEW FEATURE!

Your personalized Hill Schedule tile will be available on the app.

Login to the Hill Day Schedule tile using your last name and first initial.

FOR EXAMPLE:
John Smith: SmithJ

2019 ADVOCACY GUIDE



HOW TO
CONDUCT
A HILL VISIT



TOP
POLICY
PRIORITIES

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME
ON CAPITOL HILL AND BEYOND

This guide outlines best practices for conducting a Congressional meeting and the most pressing issues currently affecting the recreational boating industry—including specific legislative asks.

Use this resource to help better communicate your top policy concerns to members of Congress and their staff.

1 HOW TO CONDUCT A HILL VISIT

Here are **four simple steps** to ensure you maximize your time on Capitol Hill and effectively advocate for recreational boating:

1. WHO DO YOU REPRESENT?



Start each meeting introducing yourself and your company/organization. Let the member of Congress or staffer know the following key facts: company location, number of employees, sales/size data. This snapshot is critical to showing them the importance of your business and its impact in their state/district.

2. PICK 2-3 ISSUES TO DISCUSS



Don't feel like you need to be an expert. What issues are most impacting **your** business and employees?

3. MAKE THE "ASK"



Request your member of Congress or staffer co-sponsor a bill, vote for specific legislation outlined in the guide, or sign a letter of support. While an office won't make a commitment on the spot, knowing clearly what you want them to do and how you feel about an issue is crucial to decision making.

4. GIVE AN INVITATION TO VISIT YOUR FACILITY



State/district events and plant tours pay dividends in further showing elected officials the importance of our industry and why the policy issues you discuss matter.

2 TOP POLICY PRIORITIES

A. Trade

The trade war is hitting the recreational boating industry on multiple fronts, causing the price of marine materials and parts to rise and decimating U.S. boat exports.

The administration's antidumping and countervailing duties on Chinese aluminum sheet, and the global tariff imposed on all aluminum has caused the price of aluminum to spike, even when it's domestically produced. Worse, Canada, the European Union, and Mexico – which collectively account for 70 percent of U.S. boat exports each year – responded to the global aluminum and steel tariffs with retaliatory tariffs ranging from 10 percent to 25 percent on U.S. boat exports. Fortunately, the Canadian government removed its countermeasures in late April. However, the other countries' retaliation measures remain in place.

Section 301 tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods have increased the price of hundreds of commonly used marine materials, parts, and products like navigation equipment, fiberglass, inflatable boats, and trailer tires. For some products, the additional cost to manufacturers is thousands of dollars.

Most agree that more needs to be done to address our trade imbalances and China's intellectual property theft – but the administration's current approach is hurting the U.S. marine manufacturing industry and domestic U.S. businesses.

ASKS

- Find an immediate solution to the detrimental effects of Section 232 aluminum and steel tariffs and subsequent retaliatory tariffs, and refrain from imposing Section 232 tariffs on automobiles and parts.
- Stop Section 301 tit-for-tat tariffs and use diplomacy and trade agreements to address critical intellectual property infringement issues with China.
- Establish fair and free trade agreements with the EU, UK, and in other key markets that reduce technical barriers to trade, including conformity assessment procedures and harmonized standards.

Legislation to consider supporting:

Bicameral Congressional Trade Authority Act of 2019
(H.R.940/S.287)

Trade Security Act
(H.R.1008/S.365)

Import Tax Relief Act of 2019
(H.R. 1452/S. 577)

Ratifying the U.S.-Mexico-Canada-Agreement (New NAFTA), so long as retaliation on U.S. boats is addressed

B. Infrastructure

Outdoor recreation constitutes 2.2 percent of U.S. GDP—fixing recreation infrastructure is critical.

The Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) recently determined that the outdoor recreation industry accounts for 2.2 percent of U.S. GDP and supports 4.6 million jobs across the country. In terms of GDP, outdoor recreation's economic contribution is larger than mining, utilities, and chemical products manufacturing.

Generating \$170.3 billion in annual economic impact and supporting more than 35,000 businesses and 690,000 jobs, recreational boating is the leading contributor to the overall outdoor recreation industry's economic output, with infrastructure as the backbone of this critical industry. Given the significance of boating to our nation's economy, Congress should address the challenges facing green and blue infrastructure and include a specific "Recreation Title" in any comprehensive infrastructure bill.

ASKS

- Include a "Recreation Title" in an infrastructure package that invests in green and blue infrastructure and addresses the more than \$18 billion maintenance backlog for public lands and waters.
 - Recreational maritime assets serve as the gateway to water recreation, yet we see a particular lack of resources for: sufficient parking for vehicles with trailers, updating paved roads and ramps, and facility improvements such as trash and decontamination stations and bathrooms. Recreational infrastructure provides boaters with necessary resources to be good stewards of the environment and expands access to allow for safer, more enjoyable experiences on the nation's public waterways.
 - Proper dredging is essential to providing access to the recreational boating and fishing communities and maintaining clean and healthy waterways, yet federal funding for navigation management, dredging, and dredged material management projects is prioritized by total tonnage—effectively ignoring the needs at smaller ports used by recreational boaters and failing to properly account for the economic value to lakeside and coastal communities where businesses depend on marine recreation-based economic activity. Neglecting dredging needs of these waterways can also result in potential safety concerns and user conflicts when boaters are sometimes forced to use high traffic commercial channels.
 - For recreational boating and angling, reliable access to broadband is a critical safety and enjoyment issue for navigating our nation's waterways. Lack of broadband leaves boaters without updated information about navigation channels, changes in weather, and access points, which can put boaters at perilous risk. From a user perspective, broadband access improves the overall recreational experience on the water, allowing consumers to connect with others and boost their enjoyment.
 - Conservation is a key factor in ensuring recreational boating access for generations to come. From restoring the Everglades and responding to the impacts of ocean acidification, to combatting harmful algal blooms and aquatic invasive species, infrastructure plays a large role in determining the outcome of the recreational boating industry's efforts to keep America's waterways and marine habitats clean and healthy.

C. Conservation

Recreational boaters and anglers are the nation's original conservationists and directly support environmental efforts through a voluntary user fee system.

The recreational boating industry supports the conservation of America's waterways and marine ecosystems, which are integral to both our country's environment and economy. We don't just talk a good game, we put our money where our mouths are. Recreational boaters have contributed nearly \$650 million each year for projects ranging from aquatic public education campaigns to restoring natural fish habitats and marine ecosystems.

Access means nothing without healthy habitats and an abundance of clean water to support healthy and sustainable fisheries, and to recreate and preserve fishing as a treasured pastime.

ASKS

- Protect, reauthorize, and grow the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund—the backbone of fisheries conservation—which provides nearly \$650 million annually in critical funding to all 50 states through the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Support conservation by:
 - Reauthorizing the trust fund, which expires in FY 2020 as part of the Highway Trust Fund authorization.
 - Implementing sideboards on Boating Infrastructure Grants and Clean Vessel Act Grants that will allow for more transparent and effective use of funds for the public benefit.
- Provide \$200 million in federal funding for Everglades restoration, in order to return the southerly flow of water from central Florida to Florida Bay.
- Support policies, projects, and research to stop and reverse the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), including a U.S. Government Accountability Office study to review the effectiveness of federal funding for the purposes of addressing AIS and identify best practices for state and local agencies conducting decontamination and inspection.
- Approve legislation that prevents and mitigates harmful algae blooms and red tide.
- Support policies and advance solutions that address the sustainability of our oceans.

Legislation to consider supporting:

South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019 (H.R.335/S.10)

Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019 (H.R. 1716/S.778)

Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2019 (H.R. 1921)

D. Recreational Fishing

Recreational anglers make a combined economic contribution of \$125 billion annually, supporting 828,000 American jobs.

Fish caught by recreational saltwater anglers contribute three times more to our country's GDP than those caught by commercial operations. Moreover, anglers catch just two percent of the total saltwater finfish compared to ninety-eight percent caught by the commercial fishing industry.

In addition, saltwater recreational anglers release more than 210 million fish each year – nearly three times more than they keep. Nationwide, more than 80 percent of anglers release some fish that they legally could have kept.

Fishing rules and regulations should reflect recreational angling's outsized economic impact compared to other sectors.

ASKS

- Fully implement the Modern Fish Act.
- Protect unmanaged forage species.
- Support the use of fish descender devices that alleviate barotrauma and conserve species for catch and release.
- Support the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act, which would help to transition the drift gillnet fishery to more sustainable gear.

Legislation to consider supporting:

Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act (S.906)

E. Fuel Policy

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is failing the American consumer and endangering millions of boaters who depend on a stable, safe fuel supply.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should abandon its proposal to allow gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol (E15) to be sold during the summer months. Higher ethanol blends, including E15, destroy boat and other small engines, leading to costly repairs and dangerous maintenance issues.

Misfuelling is on the rise, with more than 3 in 5 Americans mistakenly assuming that any gas sold at gas stations is safe for all of their products. A majority of Americans also don't know that it is illegal to put any fuel higher than 10 percent ethanol into boats, snow mobiles, and other small engine products. Lifting the restriction on E15 sales during the summer months – the height of usage for 12 million registered boats in the U.S. – will only increase the availability of the fuel and make misfuelling even more likely.



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Nearly 9 in 10 Americans agree that the U.S. government should do more to educate the public on correct fueling for various engine types. The EPA should aim to protect consumers, not put them in jeopardy. Effective measures to protect consumers before arriving to the pump and directly at the point of sale include: improving the label to actually warn consumers, requiring uniform label positioning, and working with the FTS on fair marketing so unleaded 88 is not used as a workaround.

The bipartisan Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency Act is an important step in consumer protection. The act would require the EPA to revise labeling requirements for E15 fuel pumps across the country and would direct the implementation of a public education campaign to inform the public of the risks associated with improper use of E15. These measures will provide critically needed safeguards to protect consumers from misfuelling and ensure boaters and all consumers have a safe and reliable fuel supply.

ASKS

- Prevent year-round sale of fuels with more than 10 percent ethanol, like E15.
- Support legislation that provides better education and labeling measures to protect consumers from the dangers of misfuelling.
- Expand the on-road use of biobutanol and other biofuel alternatives to provide consumers safer options at the pump.

Legislation to consider supporting:

Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency Act (H.R. 1024)

F. Boating Safety

The recreational boating industry is committed to safety and works with the U.S. Coast Guard to meet and exceed federal manufacturing requirements.

The NMMA certification program helps manufacturers ensure their boats are built to the standards established by the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) and promote their compliance to the public. Together, NMMA certification and ABYC safety standards aim to ensure U.S. manufactured boats meet United States Coast Guard (USCG) federal regulations and the most rigorous of safety standards.

Additionally, the recreational boating industry supports commonsense approaches to ensure recreational boaters are adequately educated and responsibly enjoying our waterways.

ASKS

- Support efforts for mandatory wear of engine cut-off devices for boats under 26 feet.
- Grant U.S. Coast Guard “equivalency” authority, allowing them to readily adopt updates to American Boat and Yacht Council standards and better reflect construction standards for new technologies and industry advancements to maintain a high level of safety.

Legislation to consider supporting:

Include boating safety provisions in the 2019 U.S. Coast Guard authorization bill

Pay Our Coast Guard Act (S. 21)

Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019 (H.R. 367)

G. Workforce Development

The recreational boating industry needs a skilled 21st century workforce to support and retain American job creation and boost the industry’s contributions to the economy.

The boating industry is facing a shortfall of qualified workers for manufacturing, technicians, and service repairs. We need workforce development solutions designed for the modern economy.

As an industry that supports more than 691,000 jobs, America’s nearly 35,000 open jobs in the U.S. marine industry, of which 21 percent are unfilled retail positions and 59 percent in boating service, rely on human capital to sustain their operations and continue to grow their businesses. The recreational boating industry stands ready to hire a new generation of workers into stable and well-paying careers, but we need policymakers to ensure the right talent exists to support our investments.

ASKS

- Secure funding for education programs and increase the eligibility of dedicated training funds for small marine businesses who have less than 1,000 employees.
- Expand Pell Grant eligibility to short-term post-secondary certificates and demand-driven non-credit programs.
- Support comprehensive immigration reform that addresses labor pool shortages.

Legislation to consider supporting:

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

Notes



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