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September 26, 1966

Vice President, The Rostand Mfg. Co.
Marine Hardware
Milford, Connecticut 06461

Dear Mr. :

Thank you for your recent letter expressing the view that an independent Federal Maritime Administration is needed to halt a further decline in our status as a maritime power.

The House bill to provide for the establishment of a Federal Maritime Administration as an independent agency in the executive branch, H. R. 11696, was favorably reported by the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and is presently pending on the House calendar.

In addition, the House Government Operations Committee deleted all references to the Maritime Administration in reporting H. R. 15963, the bill to authorize the establishment of a Department of Transportation. As you probably know, the House passed this measure as reported.

The Senate Government Operations Committee ordered S. 3010, the Senate bill on this subject favorably reported after amending it. Under the terms of this measure, the Maritime Administration would be under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Department. However, the committee at the same time, ordered reported without recommendation the House-passed companion bill.

When these bills are brought up on the Floor of the Senate, I shall certainly give every consideration to the arguments to make the Maritime Administration an independent agency.

Thank you again for writing to me about this important legislation.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS J. DODD