



Marine Engineers'  
Beneficial Association, AFL-CIO  
444 Capitol Street, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20001



International Organization of  
Masters, Mates & Pilots, AFL-CIO  
700 Maritime Blvd., Suite B  
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

June 17, 2020

Dear Vice President Biden,

On behalf of the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots and Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, we are pleased to endorse your candidacy for President of the United States. Our collective unions proudly represent Ship's Captains, Chief Engineers, Pilots, licensed deck and engineering officers and other professional mariners aboard U.S.-flag oceangoing commercial vessels, state-operated ferry systems, tug boats and harbor vessels of all types as well as civilian-crewed naval auxiliary vessels, which comprise the domestic maritime workforce.

Organized labor has faced unprecedented attacks in recent years. For example, the *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court decision severely eroded the ability of public-sector employee unions to collectively bargain while various appointments and decisions by the current Administration continue to undermine rights of workers to form a union in the workplace. During a period of stagnant wages and exceeding health care costs, now is the time to expand the rights of workers to negotiate with their employers—not eliminate them. Your strong record in support of the labor movement speaks for itself through various laws that have expanded the wages, health care and retirement security of the hardworking men and women we represent.

Furthermore, as men and women of the U.S. Merchant Marine, we understand the importance of experienced leadership in both times of peace and war. During your tenured career of public service, you have stood strongly in support of the Jones Act, voted for the Maritime Security Act of 1996 that established the 60-vessel Maritime Security Program, and worked to ensure the long-term viability of the U.S.-flag commercial fleet through our nation's cargo preference laws. Your longstanding record in support of these policies recognizes the vital role American mariners play toward advancing our economic and national security.

As our nation grapples with a global pandemic, racial injustice, and unprecedented unemployment rates, there is too much at stake in the upcoming election. Our country requires stable leadership and experience that will put the interests of American workers first during a time of instability. For these reasons, we are proud to support your campaign for the White House and look forward to working with your Administration.

Sincerely,

Marshall Ainley  
President  
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

Don Marcus  
President  
International Organization of Masters,  
Mates & Pilots