

Good evening Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My Name is Ken Kimball. I am Senior Vice President at Lyon Shipyard, a family-owned full-service ship repair and industrial services facility that has been doing business in Virginia since 1928. I am testifying today in support HJ 128.

When the Lyon family started our company, we consisted of only a small frame machine shop, carpentry shop, and two marine railways. Today we employ 340 Virginians and have over 100,000 square feet of shop space from which we provide complete in-house services to a diverse mix of commercial and military vessels. Most recently, we were proud to announce a \$24 million expansion to our yard that will create 100 new jobs in the Hampton Roads area.

Virginia's tens of thousands of shipyard jobs make it the shipbuilding Capitol of the United States and we are proud to live and work here. Every single one of these jobs – and tens of thousands more – are supported by the Jones Act. The Virginia Maritime industry works for the entire state of Virginia: it helps to deliver essential products to residents across the Commonwealth and supports the work

of the Navy in the Hampton Roads area. There is not a day that goes by in which the Jones Act fleet does not contribute to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

I am proud to work in the U.S. maritime industry, and prouder still to have done it in Virginia. The Commonwealth is one of the top ten maritime states in terms of jobs I kindly urge the Committee to honor this heritage by unanimously supporting this resolution.

Thank you very much.