



SEAWAY TASK FORCE COALITION

AMERICA'S SHIPYARDS

Even before the day America proclaimed its independence, the domestic shipbuilding industry has generated important national economic and security benefits. U.S. shipyards generate employment opportunities with benefits.

Throughout America's history, the industry has proven its resiliency, adapting from wooden ships with sails to the rise of the steam engine in the 19th century through its revitalization prior to and during World War II to the present push for double-hull tankers and barges. Time and time again, the industry has rebounded and led the world.

In the 1950's, American shipbuilders produced the first nuclear powered commercial vessel. Over the past two decades, domestic shipbuilding succeeded through joint government-public actions.

Given the difficult times in which America finds itself, preserving skilled jobs in this manufacturing sector is more important than ever.

The Seaway Task Force renews our call to maintain and sustain America's shipbuilding capability. The thousands upon thousands of men and women who work in these yards are among the best craftsmen in the world. These jobs build and grow communities, something that cannot be overlooked in these tough economic times.