

# AWO VALUE

AWO advocates every day to safeguard our members' investments and foster a public policy environment in which our members can succeed in providing safe, secure, environmentally responsible and efficient transportation services; offering family-wage jobs and career paths with opportunity to American men and women; and, ensuring the resiliency and long-term sustainability of the tugboat, towboat and barge industry.

Your investment in AWO membership provides bottom-line benefits to every member company and to our industry as a whole. Here are some recent examples of AWO value:

- At the helm of the American Maritime Partnership, AWO has led the fight to protect the Jones Act, which provides the foundation for billions of dollars of industry investment in the past five years alone. Every piece of **anti-Jones Act legislation introduced in Congress has been rebuffed**. AWO-supported legislation passed in the 112th Congress adds new safeguards to tighten up the Jones Act waiver process in the extraordinary circumstances when waivers are considered.
- Working hand-in-hand with Waterways Council, AWO worked successfully to **preserve navigation on the mid-Mississippi River** during the historic low water in the Fall and Winter of 2012, securing the accelerated removal of rock pinnacles that impeded navigation at Thebes and Grand Tower, IL.
- In the wake of the *Deepwater Horizon*, the largest oil spill in U.S. history, AWO led a successful coalition effort to **thwart punitive legislation** that would have penalized the marine transportation industry for the Gulf of Mexico well blowout, raising liability limits, subjecting vessel response plans to public notice and comment, repealing the Limitation of Liability Act and imposing unlimited punitive damages for maritime torts. Of the 62 post-*Deepwater* bills introduced in the 111th Congress, not one was enacted into law.
- AWO advocacy with the U.S. Coast Guard drastically **scaled back proposed ballast water treatment rules** that would have required nearly every tugboat, towboat and barge carrying ballast water, inland or coastal, to install ballast water treatment systems costing as much as \$1 million per vessel. The vast majority of AWO member tugboats, towboats, and barges are exempt from ballast water treatment requirements under the 2012 final regulations.

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- AWO advocacy with the Environmental Protection Agency **secured the exemption of all tugboats, towboats and barges** from requirements to install ballast water treatment systems under the 2013 Vessel General Permit.
- AWO **overturned proposed Coast Guard regulations to require TWIC readers** at multiple locations on towing vessels, each costing \$10,000 or more, first leading a successful campaign to secure legislation providing for the establishment of a minimum crew size threshold for onboard readers, then securing publication of a revised Coast Guard proposal under which no card readers will be required on towing vessels.
- AWO worked with the Coast Guard to **develop a cost-free mechanism** for inland tank barge operators to comply with the emergency towing requirements of the agency's salvage and marine firefighting regulations, as an alternative to the impractical and unsustainable positioning of standby vessels throughout the inland river system.
- AWO drafted and spearheaded passage of 2012 legislation giving the Coast Guard the authority to **extend the validity of merchant mariner medical certificates** to ensure that mariners and their employers are not harmed by circumstances that prevent the agency from processing certificate renewals in a timely manner. Similar authority was used by the Coast Guard to extend the validity of Merchant Mariner Credentials during the partial government shutdown in Fall 2013.

**AWO also strives to leverage member investments in the association to reduce the costs of our work.**

- AWO led the effort to secure a **\$300,000 grant** from the Transportation Research Board to build on AWO member-funded sleep research. A Northwestern University-Washington State University team has been selected to develop a compendium of best practices to improve sleep efficiency among towing vessel crewmembers.
- AWO secured a **\$100,000 contribution** from the U.S. Maritime Administration to conduct a public education study of the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry's economic value to the nation.

*Your investment in AWO is an investment in the present and the future of the tugboat, towboat and barge industry.  
AWO works hard every day to produce value that substantially exceeds our cost.*