

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5488

To strengthen the National Defense Features program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN (for himself and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To strengthen the National Defense Features program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Defense Fea-
5 tures Program Enhancement Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS CONCERNING NA-**
7 **TIONAL DEFENSE FEATURES PROGRAM.**

8 The Congress finds the following:

9 (1) The National Defense Features program,
10 which is funded from the National Defense Sealift

1 Fund established by section 2218 of title 10, United
2 States Code, is a constituent element of the defense
3 policy of the United States intended to provide es-
4 sential sealift capacity in emergencies, strengthen
5 the national shipbuilding base, and maintain a re-
6 source of highly trained merchant seamen.

7 (2) Implementation of the National Defense
8 Features program would provide significant benefits
9 both for the United States and for allied nations
10 during military contingencies.

11 (3) For the United States and nations allied
12 with the United States to realize these benefits, it is
13 essential that vessels built under that program enjoy
14 commercial opportunities in peacetime on trade
15 routes between the United States and allied nations
16 and that those vessels not be excluded from such op-
17 portunities through restrictive trade practices.

18 (4) The failure of vessels built, or to be built,
19 under the National Defense Features program to ob-
20 tain employment as common carriers or contract
21 carriers in the particular sector of any trade route
22 in the foreign commerce of the United States for
23 which they are designed to operate, together with
24 long-term domination of that sector of the trade

1 route by citizens of an allied nation, evidences the
2 existence of restrictive trade practices.

3 **SEC. 3. ACTION TO PROMOTE NATIONAL DEFENSE FEA-**
4 **TURES PROGRAM.**

5 In any case in which the Federal Maritime Commis-
6 sion finds the existence of the conditions specified in sec-
7 tion 2(4) to prove the existence of restrictive trade prac-
8 tices, it shall take action to counteract such practices, uti-
9 lizing all remedies available under section 10002(e)(1) of
10 the Foreign Shipping Practices Act of 1988 (46 U.S.C.
11 App. 1710a).

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