

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 709

To amend title 46, United States Code, to provide statutory authority for the Office of Consumer Affairs and Dispute Resolution Services of the Federal Maritime Commission, to increase public awareness and understanding of ocean shipping services agreements and such Office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2019

Mr. POSEY (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to provide statutory authority for the Office of Consumer Affairs and Dispute Resolution Services of the Federal Maritime Commission, to increase public awareness and understanding of ocean shipping services agreements and such Office, 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 “Common Sense Mari-
5 time and Consumer Services Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DISPUTE RES-**
2 **OLUTION SERVICES OF THE FEDERAL MARI-**
3 **TIME COMMISSION; INCREASING PUBLIC**
4 **AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING.**

5 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Chapter 403 of title 46, United
6 States Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“§ 40108. Office of Consumer Affairs and Dispute Res-**
9 **olution Services of the Federal Maritime**
10 **Commission**

11 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF OFFICE.—There shall be in
12 the Federal Maritime Commission an Office of Consumer
13 Affairs and Dispute Resolution Services (in this section
14 referred to as the ‘Office’).

15 “(b) FUNCTION OF OFFICE.—To promote better pub-
16 lic understanding, the Office shall seek to—

17 “(1) raise public awareness about ocean ship-
18 ping agreements between carriers, use of ocean
19 transportation intermediaries, and other shipping
20 services; and

21 “(2) assist consumers in confidentially resolving
22 disputes and other related matters deemed valuable
23 to the consumer by the Commission.”.

24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the be-
25 ginning of such chapter is further amended by adding at
26 the end the following:

“40108. Office of Consumer Affairs and Dispute Resolution Services of the Federal Maritime Commission.”.

