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Longshore Relief for the Recreational Marine Service and Repair Industry is Awaiting President Obama's Signature!

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (February 13, 2009) - As part of the job creation initiative to stimulate the economy, the unnecessary and duplicative Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation insurance requirement for recreational marine service and repair businesses has finally been removed. Today, as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (HR 1), the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate voted to implement a no cost modification to the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. The provision will ensure the stability and future of the recreational marine industry through out the nation and particularly in the State of Florida.

"This is a significant accomplishment for the recreational marine industry," said MIASF president JJ McConnell. "It will result in valuable economic relief for our industry and MIASF is proud to have been in the forefront of the campaign to bring about this much needed change for our members."

The economic impacts of this technical correction will be felt nationwide. The marine industry is a global market. Many jobs were being lost to international competition in the Caribbean, Mexico and Canada. This relief will save small businesses on average over \$100K annually which will allow the businesses to insure their workers under the state comp system and retain and create American jobs.

Kristina Hebert, MIASF Past President and a third generation business operator of Ward's Marine Electric said, "Marine business operators, especially small businesses like my family's who have had to carry the burden of Longshore are very proud and appreciative of Congresswoman Wasserman-Schultz and Congressman Klein's efforts on our behalf." She added, "I have an especially strong sense of gratitude for what has been accomplished, not just because I have been involved from the start, but because I know how much work our legislative champions have put forth."

MIASF has spearheaded this legislative effort for eight years but without the support of the industry's congressional champions Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL) and Congressman Ron Klein (D-FL) we would not have this success. Their untiring dedication and passion for this industry are the key reasons for achieving these amazing results.

Marine business operators should contact their insurance agent immediately to determine

how this legislative change affects your current policy. It is important however to note that this exclusion DOES NOT APPLY if you do not carry state workers compensation insurance.

The MIA SF is a not-for-profit trade organization created in 1961 to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in South Florida for the benefit and education of its members, the community and the environment. The Association has over 800 members in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties.

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