



January 7, 2015

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters.

As chair of the ITF Seafarers' Section and a founding member of the Cabotage Task Force, and on behalf of the Seafarers International Union of North America, let me congratulate the maritime unions within Australia on your actions to defend your national flag shipping industry.

Over the years and indeed right up to the present, our unions have worked very closely to maintain a cabotage capacity as a way to create jobs, contribute to the national and local economies, protect the environment in which we make a living, and play a major part in assuring our national security is protected.

The fact the a US multi-national company like Alcoa is openly attacking the Australian national shipping industry is now well known around the world and has the full attention of the ITF Seafarers' Section, and specifically the Cabotage Task Force.

The FOC system being used to undermine your coastal shipping industry comes with a very high cost to any country, particularly when it is used as competition in a domestic trade.

The ITF and the SIU recognize the hard work and dedication that you and your unions are famous for, and stand by ready to support you in this most difficult, critical struggle.

Long live the MUA!

In Solidarity,

David Heindel  
Secretary-Treasurer

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