

Jones Act Again Tied to Crude Oil Exports



MARCH 20, 2015

The U.S. Congress continues to consider whether to reverse the 1975 ban on crude oil exports prompted by the U.S. shale oil renaissance. That consideration also continues to overlap with the U.S. Jones Act, as evidenced in two separate [U.S. Senate Committee hearings](#) held on March 19, 2015.

The Senate Energy Committee, chaired by Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, held a hearing to discuss whether the ban should be reversed or modified. Several witnesses called for a repeal of the ban for energy security, economic, fiscal, and national security reasons. Others, including Committee members, worried that exports would raise U.S. gasoline prices and export U.S. refinery jobs.

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM), a national refining trade association, drew a connection between any change in the ban and the Jones Act, which restricts U.S. movements of all merchandise to U.S.-built, U.S.-flag vessels owned and operated by qualified U.S. citizens. AFPM urged the Committee also to consider changing the Jones Act so as not to disadvantage U.S. refineries purchasing U.S. produced crude oil vis-a-vis foreign refineries.

Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii countered that the Jones Act was necessary for national security as well as economic and commercial reasons and, in particular, pointed to testimony favoring the Jones Act provided almost simultaneously in the Senate Armed Services Committee.

At the other hearing, General Paul J. Selva, Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command, testified that, “The Jones Act contributes to a robust domestic maritime industry that helps to maintain the U.S. industrial shipyard base and infrastructure” and “provides additional capacity and trained U.S. merchant mariners” to crew national defense vessels.

Sen. Murkowski concluded by saying that she and her Committee will remain focused on the topic of crude oil exports and that the current focus remains one of education – legislating will come next.

1 Min Read

Author

[Charlie Papavizas](#)

Related Locations

Washington, DC

Related Topics

Jones Act

Jones Act Attorney

Jones Act Lawyer

Jones Act Maritime

Jones Act Shipping

Jones Act Vessels

Papavizas Jones Act

Crude Oil Exports

Related Professionals



[Charlie Papavizas](#)

This entry has been created for information and planning purposes. It is not intended to be, nor should it be substituted for, legal advice, which turns on specific facts.