

2023 Policy Priorities



118TH CONGRESS

Who is the MRAA?

The Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) is the leading trade association of North American small businesses that sell and service new and pre-owned recreational boats and operate marinas, boatyards, and accessory stores. Representing more than 1,100 marine retailers, MRAA is the trusted public policy and political voice of the marine retail industry, its management and shareholders, and growing membership base. Our members are the small businesses that make water-based outdoor recreation possible for everyday Americans. The MRAA also owns and operates the Dealer Week Conference and Expo, which occurs annually and is the single-largest trade show specifically for boat dealers in the United States.

What Does the MRAA Do?

The mission of the MRAA is to advocate on behalf marine retailers to ensure they have a strong selling environment, access, and abundant natural resources to facilitate continued enjoyment of water-based outdoor recreation. Through education, the MRAA also seeks to bolster our member businesses and provides opportunities for professional development, dealership certification, and more.

Boating United

Boating United is the advocacy platform of the recreational boating industry and is shared with the National Marine Manufacturer's Association. Through Boating United we generate Action Alerts and engage our members and their elected officials.

BoatPAC

BoatPAC (PAC) is the Political Action Committee of the recreational boating industry and is supported by members of the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas, National Marine Manufacturers Association, and the Association of Marina Industries. Each year MRAA member support the BoatPAC at an annual fundraising reception at our Dealer Week Conference and Expo.



Congressional Boating Caucus

The Congressional Boating Caucus is an informal, bipartisan group of U.S. Senators and Representatives formed in 1989 to advocate for the interests of the recreational boating industry. There are four Boating Caucus co-chairs: one Democrat and one Republican from both the Senate and the House; their staff manages the Caucus' activities.

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Support for Marine Industry Workers

- Currently, the marine industry has a workforce crisis. We are facing a greying of many incumbent workers and lack a dedicated career pipeline to educate and train new, young and diverse members of the marine industry workforce.
- Secure funding to bolster marine industry apprenticeship programs and strengthen efforts at the state-level.
- Secure funding for national career awareness and recruitment campaign.
- Expand Work Opportunity Tax Credit beyond 2025 to incentivize diversity in marine industry.
- Reauthorize Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and expand to explicitly benefit the marine industry.

Increase Resiliency of Small Businesses

- Marine businesses are oftentimes on the frontlines of natural disasters and extreme weather events, and to keep folks on the water and their investments safe, they need to start taking steps to prepare themselves for these situations.
- Pass the Providing Resources for Emergency Preparedness and Resilient Enterprises (PREPARE) Act (117th - H.R. 3207/S. 1621) to provide low-interest, fixed-rate loans up to \$500,000 for small businesses to invest in pre-disaster mitigation projects.

Maintain a Strong Selling and Boating Environment

- The MRAA is dedicated to assuring that our members can continue to do business without additional red tape and overburdensome regulations.
- Seeking Exemption from Federal Trade Commission Motor Vehicle Dealers Trade Regulation Rule (Rulemaking No. 204800).
- Opposing the proposed National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Right Whale Vessel Speed Rule (Docket No. 220722-0162).

Grow the Congressional Boating Caucus

- Continue to educate and invite new members to join and participate in the Congressional Boating Congress.

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