

U.S. Sen. Baldwin: Reintroduces legislation to support American manufacturers and shipbuilders

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin reintroduced legislation that supports Wisconsin’s manufacturing and shipbuilding industries. The *Made in America Shipbuilding Act* (S. 4687) strengthens Buy American requirements for the federal government’s purchase of ships by expanding current law to cover all federal agencies, all classes of ships and substantially more shipboard components, including items made in Wisconsin.

“For decades in Wisconsin, we’ve worked to make things: paper, engines, tools and ships. These manufacturing jobs have created shared prosperity for generations and strengthened the economic security of hard-working families across our state,” **said Senator Baldwin**. “Strong Buy American standards drive local economic growth and create good paying jobs that support Wisconsin families. And because American workers are the best in the world, these standards also ensure that the federal government, including our military, purchases the highest quality ships and parts needed to carry out its various missions. The *Made in America Shipbuilding Act* is about doing right by workers in Wisconsin and across the country, and I am urging my Senate colleagues to support this legislation.”

“Senator Baldwin is one of Congress’s most stalwart advocates for U.S. manufacturing jobs. She has proactively fought to protect US jobs since her first term as a US Representative in 1999. The Senator’s proposed *Made in America Shipbuilding Act* will not only strengthen the defense industrial base by providing American-made components for U.S. tax payer-funded ships, but will give American

shipbuilding suppliers the confidence to invest capital and add high paying middle-class jobs. Fairbanks Morse is sincerely grateful for the Senator's leadership in bringing critical manufacturing jobs back to the United States," **said George Whittier, CEO of Fairbanks Morse in Beloit, Wisconsin.**

"The present government procurement processes allow for an increased dependence on foreign supply which is troubling to us as Americans and as manufacturers. Every federal contract that creates a job for a foreign manufacturer and their many contractors takes one away from a potential American supplier – a trend that continues to decimate an already fragile U.S. marine manufacturing base. Senator Baldwin's *Made in America Shipbuilding Act* is a great step in reversing this trend by ensuring that mission critical ship components are procured from domestic suppliers," **said Frank Pierri, President of Appleton Marine, Inc.**

"In the absence of clear direction from the Navy on domestic sourcing of critical components, the American Shipbuilding Suppliers Association (ASSA) believes that Congress must provide direction through provisions like Senator Baldwin's *Made in America Shipbuilding Act* that requires key critical components be designed, engineered, manufactured and assembled in the U. S.," **said George Williams, CEO of ASSA.** "ASSA strongly supports the Buy American provisions in this act. It's time to make Buy American America's priority. Continued foreign encroachment on American manufacturers is not just a matter of economics; it's a matter of national security. The current process is decimating the American Shipbuilding Suppliers industry so much so that one day, the U. S. may be totally dependent upon foreign countries to defend our Nation."

If U.S. taxpayer dollars are used to purchase any type of vessel, the *Made in America Shipbuilding Act* requires that it is made in America by skilled American workers, uses domestically produced materials, like steel, iron and aluminum, and includes critical shipboard components that are manufactured in the United States.

Senator Baldwin has long-championed stronger Buy American standards to ensure that American workers and products are prioritized, especially when U.S. taxpayer

dollars are used.

More information on the *Made in America Shipbuilding Act* is available [here](#). Full bill text is available [here](#).

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