

March 19, 2024



The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the Center for LNG (CLNG), I am writing in support of H.R. 7659, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024. CLNG supports Section 324 which authorizes the use of a risk-based approach to conduct Certificate of Compliance (CoC) inspections. This provision will help to enhance maritime safety by providing the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) with the flexibility to prioritize its efforts where the need is greatest.

As the United States' role as an LNG exporter continues to grow, so will the need for additional resources, personnel, and hardware to perform the required CoC inspections. According to the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report<sup>1</sup> released in January 2022, the "USCG has an overall shortage of approximately 400 marine inspectors...which affects its ability to conduct gas carrier compliance exams." Further, the report found that the "[USCG] noted that there have been no serious accidents involving gas carriers at U.S. ports and lowering the frequency of gas carrier compliance exams would free up resources to focus inspections on riskier vessels."

H.R. 7659 would enhance maritime safety by authorizing the Coast Guard to use a risk-based process to determine the frequency of inspections for all tank vessels, including LNG vessels, allowing them to focus their efforts on where resources are needed most.

CLNG urges support for H.R. 7659, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Riedl", is positioned above the typed name.

Charlie Riedl  
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105432>