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Upgraded US Coast Guard System for Vessel Documentation: For those who have documented vessels and need to renew or establish new documentation, the USCG has upgraded the system, and it's much easier to accomplish with the new system. If you want to use the system go to: www.uscg.mil/nvdc and it contains all the information you need for renewal to obtain a new Certificate of Documentation and make your payment. It is easier and much faster than snail-mail. Once you get to the website, on the left margin under: Order Products on-line, click on Renewal and follow the instructions.

Trump Transition Team and the Forecast for Boating: With the election behind us, the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) will continue discussions with the Trump transition team, emphasizing the importance of recreational boating and entire outdoor economy. They stand ready to work with President Elect Trump and his Administration to grow the outdoor economy, bolster manufacturing and expand the recreational marine industry. NMMA expects the Trump Administration to be open to the ideals and priorities that are of great importance to our industry—from fishing and boating access, to tax reform and job creation.

In the coming weeks and months, selection of agency heads for the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Commerce, Department of Interior and Department of Homeland Security will also serve to guide the direction of critical regulatory programs for recreational boating. Policy priorities for NMMA, including equitable recreational fishing policies, improved boating access on federal lands and waterways, robust trade, boating safety, and sound fuel policies will all receive a fresh look and direction with the new Administration.

In addition, the transition team will focus on top legislative priorities to present to Congress in Trump's first 100 days. With a clear mandate, this will be a prime opportunity for President Trump and a Republican Congress to enact sweeping legislation which is expected to include a massive infrastructure/jobs bill that NMMA believes is necessary to grow and sustain boating for generations to come.

Letter to Congress Urging Support for Trans-Pacific Partnership: According to the U.S. Coalition for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a diverse group of U.S. companies and associations representing the principal sectors of the U.S. economy, have collected signatures for a joint sign-on letter urging support for TPP. It is critical that Congress understands the importance of the TPP to the future growth of trade, jobs, prosperity and competitiveness of the United States. The letter was delivered to all members of Congress this fall. NMMA member manufacturers are encouraged to add their company support of TPP to put added pressure on Congress to ratify the TPP during the lame duck session. Some facts on the direct benefits to boating:

- Establishes a regulatory coherence committee to implement good regulatory practices, state coordination and transparency.
- Reduces technical barriers to trade through new obligations of transparency and greater stakeholder engagement.
- The elimination of tariffs on U.S.-made recreational products (boats and RVs) in Japan and New Zealand will enhance the competitiveness of U.S. products in those high-income markets.

- The elimination of tariffs on recreational transportation products in Malaysia and Vietnam (which apply tariffs as high as 70%) will provide U.S. producers greater access to the growing middle class in those markets.

Part of the letter to Congress states: Failing to approve the TPP would have significant costs for the United States. It would keep our manufacturers, innovators, service providers, and farmers and ranchers at a competitive disadvantage; severe damage to U.S. leadership and credibility in the region; and cede economic leadership in Asia to other countries that are pursuing alternative regional trade agreements that do not include the United States.

There are also many who oppose the TPP and as a recent publication states: **Petition – Tell Congress to Reject the TPP!** This is followed by some narrative on its disadvantages and a form to fill out and then send it to Congress.

Another group stated “The TPP is a secret multination trade agreement that threatens to extend restrictive International Property (IP) laws across the globe and rewrite international rules on its enforcement.”

Additionally, the sweeping TPP, which would have included 12 nations, including the U.S. and Asia effectively died, as Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress told the White House they won’t advance it in the election’s aftermath, and Obama administration officials acknowledged it has no way forward now.