



PRESS RELEASE
February 2, 2020

For Immediate Release
Contact: Eric Kretsch
202-350-9623
ekretsch@marinaassociation.org

AMI hosts legislative briefing on working waterfronts and marinas

Washington D.C. – The Association of Marina Industries (AMI) held its first-ever Congressional Briefing, focusing on the impact of upcoming legislation on working waterfronts and the marina industry. This briefing was held in partnership with the National Working Waterfronts Network. Over 65 staffers, media people, and others interested attended leaving no room to sit in the auditorium.

More importantly, panelists Rick Chapman, an AMI Board Member, Midwest Marina Association President, and GM of Sunnyside Marina in Minnesota, and Jimmy Mackie, Virginia Marine Trades President and GM of Regatta Point Yachting Center in Virginia connected with attendees on the economic and social significance of working waterfronts and marinas.

“As a business manager, I feel it’s incredibly important to share my story with those making policy on Capitol Hill so that they understand the impacts their decisions have,” stated Rick Chapman.

[Picture 1] Caption - From left to right, VMTA President Jimmy Mackey, Congressman Rob Wittman, AMI Legislative Coordinator Eric Kretsch, and Midwest Marina Association President Rick Chapman before Tuesday’s briefing.

The briefing opened with Representative Rob Wittman (District 1, Virginia), a strong supporter of the marine trades, working waterfronts, and Chesapeake Bay restoration speaking about the importance of recognizing the impact of climate change on maritime businesses in the years to come. Congressman Wittman’s office sponsored the event.

[Picture 2] Caption – Rep. Rob Wittman speaking to attendees at the AMI lunch on working waterfronts and marinas.

The outdoor recreation supports 2.2 percent of U.S. gross domestic product; this is greater than mining and chemical production and on par with telecommunications, industries for a long time seen as big American business. Boating and fishing represent the largest portion of this economic [noun for power, impact].

The Association of Marina Industries estimates approximately 11,500 U.S. marinas produce an economic impact of \$18.1 Billion, which supports 105,000 jobs.

“It’s important that the boating industry, working waterfronts, and the marina industry have a say in any major infrastructure legislation,” says Eric Kretsch, AMI’s Legislative and Outreach Coordinator.

[Picture 3] Caption – Eric Kretsch, AMI Legislative and Outreach Coordinator, providing information about the marina industry during the briefing.

The briefing focused on water infrastructure and the climate resilience of waterfront businesses, highlighting the importance of the Water Resources Development Act and Sportfish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund reauthorization as conduits to benefit waterfront businesses and the marina industry.

Speaking on AMI’s efforts, Kretsch discussed that over the last three years AMI worked to build its legislative recognition in Washington D.C., working in greater concert with partners the National Marine Manufacturer’s Association, the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas, and Boat U.S. AMI also contracted with LobbyIt.com to independently track legislation to specifically marinas and boatyards.

“AMI believes that marinas are and important part of the boating industry,” stated Kretsch, “AMI’s working to make sure that part of the industry is heard”.

AMI hopes to follow up with the various offices to continue advancing the boating industry's priorities in Congress.

Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

