



City of Pittsburgh

510 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Text File

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Committee: City Council

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WHEREAS, built in 1926 and used during World War II by the United States Navy to transport wounded soldiers being treated in San Francisco, California, the Delta Queen Steamboat is America's oldest operating overnight steamboat; and

WHEREAS after being decommissioned, the Delta Queen was purchased and renovated by Greene Line Steamers in 1947; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Queen remains one of the last enduring symbols of America's inland waterway travel system and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Queen has been offering safe and reliable service for 60 years and has become one of the most treasured historic symbols in the hearts of her many passengers and crew members; and

WHEREAS, following the passage of the Safety of Life at Sea Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-777), passenger vessels that hosted berth or stateroom accommodations for 50 or more passengers had to comply with safety requirements as set forth by the Safety of Life at Sea Convention of 1960, with such requirements including the restriction of wooden passenger crafts due to fire safety regulations; and

WHEREAS, in response to the passage of this aforementioned Act, the Delta Queen's wooden superstructure was treated with fire retardant materials and outfitted with a modern sprinkler system, thereby making it resistant to the ignition of fires; and

WHEREAS, consequent to the passage of the Safety of Life at Sea Act, the Steamboat Delta Queen has been repeatedly granted exemptions, ten in total; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Queen's safety records do not report that she is any less safe today than she has been for the past 41 years, during which time she has been permitted to sail under various exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the current exemption that protects the Delta Queen is due to expire in 2008, and Congress has yet to act in accordance with its previous decisions in granting the vessel permission to continue her decades of service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby urge the Congress of the United States to act quickly and efficiently in order to renew the Delta Queen's soon to expire exemption from the Safety of Life at Sea Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-777), thereby allowing this living memorial to continue its mission of connecting America's innovative present to its monumental past.