



AMPP Advocacy Day 2026

HANDBOOK

MAY 11-12, 2026

Table of Contents

- 3 Letter from the CEO**
Alan Thomas, CEO, Association for Materials Protection and Performance
- 4 Agenda**
- 5 Map of Capitol Hill**
- 6 Suggested Talking Points**
Suggested Talking Points for meetings with members of Congress and Staff
- 7 Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) Act (H.R. 3151/S.1541)**
This legislation would empower Americans of any educational background, skill level, or age, and would benefit all industries and professions that rely on employees with specialized training or credentials.
- 10 Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act (H.R. 5301)**
This legislation would strengthen the safety and reliability of the nation's pipeline infrastructure while supporting a highly skilled workforce and the industries that depend on energy delivery.
- 12 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)**
This legislation would support critical water infrastructure projects while advancing workforce development and the industries responsible for maintaining safe, reliable, and resilient public assets.

Letter from our CEO



Dear AMPP Advocates,

Welcome to Advocacy Days 2026!

Your voices matter now more than ever. Thank you for making the trip to Washington, D.C., and for your steadfast commitment to AMPP's mission.

We are here because AMPP members make life-saving, mission-critical contributions to the nation's infrastructure every single day — from our naval fleet and commercial ports to the pipelines that deliver energy to millions of homes and businesses, and the dams, levees, and waterways that underpin our communities. Congress can and should do more to support the professionals represented by our membership and staff.

America is investing in infrastructure, but without materials protection, those investments won't last. That's why our message on Capitol Hill is clear: long-term performance, safety, and reliability depend on the expertise our members bring to every sector they serve.

This year's Fly-In is our most expansive yet. Attendees will be carrying AMPP's message across three distinct legislative priorities, reflecting AMPP's broad, diverse membership. These policies reflect the same sectors our members serve, and where AMPP expertise directly supports national priorities:

- The SHIPS for America Act (H.R. 3151/S. 1541) — a comprehensive legislative package meant to rebuild U.S. shipbuilding capacity and ensure the maritime corrosion control workforce is equipped to protect our naval and commercial fleet for generations to come.
- The PIPES Act — a reauthorization bill which would strengthen pipeline safety standards and advance corrosion mitigation requirements that protect both the public and our energy infrastructure.
- The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) — a sector-specific bill largely focused on civil water infrastructure projects that would authorize critical investments in ports, dams, levees, and waterways, creating long-term demand for corrosion protection expertise across the nation's water infrastructure.

Your engagement over the next two days will help ensure that policymakers understand how fundamental AMPP members are to the future of safety, sustainability, and national security across these sectors.

Together, let's seize this opportunity to ensure infrastructure investments deliver lasting performance and to secure the future of our profession on Capitol Hill and beyond.

Sincerely,

Alan Thomas
Chief Executive Officer
Association for Materials Protection and Performance

ampp.org



Agenda

Monday, May 11

- Opening Reception**

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Location: Smoke and Mirrors Rooftop Bar at AC Hotel Capitol Hill/Navy Yard; 867 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003

Join fellow advocates to exchange ideas, strengthen connections, and unite in representing our industry with purpose.

Tuesday, May 12

- Group Photo**

Time: 8:30 – 9 am

Locations: Capitol Steps (Across the street from Supreme Court)

- Scheduled AMPP Advocacy Meetings and Lunch****

Time: 10 am – 4:30 pm

Locations: Capitol Complex

**Cafeterias are available in the Dirksen Senate Office Building and the Longworth and Rayburn House Office Buildings, usually on the ground floor or in the basement.

Understanding Capitol Hill

The Capitol Complex includes the U.S. Capitol building as well as several Senate and House office buildings. Most of your scheduled meetings will take place in the buildings listed below. All buildings are connected via underground tunnel systems from the Capitol Visitor Center.

BUILDING CHAMBER NOTES		
Russell Senate Office Building	Senate	Closest to Union Station Metro (Red Line)
Dirksen Senate Office Building	Senate	Cafeteria available
Hart Senate Office Building	Senate	Connected to Dirksen
Cannon House Office Building	House	Oldest House office building
Longworth House Office Building	House	Cafeteria available
Rayburn House Office Building	House	Cafeteria available; largest House building

Metro Access: The closest Metro stations are Union Station (Red Line, near Senate buildings) and Capitol South (Blue/Orange/Silver Lines, near House buildings), Uber/Lyft are also recommended for the travel.

Map of Capitol Hill



CVC 23-004

Suggested Talking Points: Meetings with Members of Congress and Staff

Due to their busy schedules, each office will likely have approximately 20 minutes to spare for your group. This may seem limited, but we must respect their time commitments and maximize the opportunity. Additionally, we request your cooperation in adhering to a 20-minute waiting period. If the legislator does arrive within this timeframe, we encourage you to conclude and proceed to the next scheduled appointment gracefully. This will ensure that we maximize our advocacy efforts and maintain a respectful and efficient approach.

TIME (15 mins)	TOPIC
2-4 mins	Introductions — Each person
2-3 mins	AMPP Overview
4 mins	Storytelling — Your Bill and its Corrosion Control Impact
2-3 mins	Call to Action
1 min	Thank You — Picture

INTRODUCTION

- Hello, and thank you for meeting with us.
- My name is _____, and I'm a [your profession/company]. (Point out if you or your company is in the congressperson's district).
 - ▶ (Other attendees introduce themselves)
- We're excited to meet with you today and introduce you to the Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP).
- We're a group of AMPP members passionate about public policy and protecting people and assets from the potentially catastrophic consequences of corrosion.
- Our main goal today is to promote the role that corrosion experts play in the maritime/energy/civil infrastructure industry and serve as a resource to you and your office.



Advocacy Day Talking Points: About AMPP

AMPP OVERVIEW

- We are a global community of professionals dedicated to materials protection through the advancement of corrosion control and protective coatings.
- We help protect infrastructure and assets worldwide through member and workforce education and credentialing, company accreditation, technological innovation, global standardization, and advocacy.
- Specifically, AMPP develops and updates standards and training programs to ensure that assets are protected from corrosion.
- We work with policymakers to integrate corrosion prevention, materials performance, and workforce readiness into infrastructure policy.
- These policies reflect the sectors our members serve and where AMPP expertise supports national priorities.
- These measures protect the environment, reduce overall costs for maintenance and repairs, and ensure the highest levels of public safety.
- Unfortunately, we've seen what happens when asset integrity and corrosion planning aren't at the forefront of public policy.

Advocacy Day Talking Points: AMPP & Shipbuilding AMPP's Contributions to Fleet Readiness and National Security

The U.S. is investing in its naval fleet. AMPP is helping protect that investment. Shipbuilding capacity is critical, but fleet readiness depends on durability, and durability depends on corrosion control, standards, and a skilled workforce.

- **Extend Lifespan, Cut Costs:** AMPP's corrosion prevention expertise reduces lifecycle costs and extends the operational lifespan of ships and infrastructure.
- **Innovate Shipbuilding:** AMPP drives research into new materials and protective solutions that enhance vessel performance and durability.
- **Recruit, Train, and Upskill the Maritime Workforce:** AMPP helps solve labor shortages through certification and training programs and ensures a highly qualified maritime workforce.
- **Strengthen National Security:** Corrosion prevention is mission-critical. AMPP's work ensures military and commercial vessels remain ready and reliable.
- **Set Global Standards:** AMPP creates internationally recognized corrosion prevention and coatings standards, ensuring consistent, efficient practices across shipyards.
- **Fuel Economic Growth:** AMPP enhances productivity and contributes to a stronger U.S. shipbuilding economy by reducing downtime and repair needs.

SHIPS Suggested Talking Points

Why AMPP Is a Trusted Authority in Shipbuilding

- **Creating a Highly Skilled Workforce:** 30+ years of maritime-focused training, 60K+ professionals trained, 11K+ courses delivered in 350+ locations
- **Global Authority:** Sole corrosion prevention expert recognized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- **Established Strategic Ally:**
 - ▶ Longstanding partner to the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, and commercial shipbuilders
 - ▶ **Standard Item 009-32:** Navy spec incorporating AMPP standards/training for maintenance, readiness, and corrosion protection
 - ▶ **IMO PSPC:** Mandates AMPP standards/training for all non-military ships (coating inspection, prep, application, maintenance)
- **NAVSEA Partnership:** AMPP collaborates with NAVSEA to uphold corrosion control standards, having developed 83 standards and 10 certifications with multiple training programs, including: SP21419 – Nonskid coatings, SP21417 – Topside exterior ship coatings and SP21416 – Application processes for coatings
- **NAVFAC MPI M500 Standards:** Partner in setting test protocols for military coatings (fuel tanks, splash zones, structural steel) with 50+ standards referenced by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and UFGS Whole Building Design Guide
- **U.S. Coast Guard Preservation:**
 - ▶ SFLC Specification 6310 integrates AMPP standards for coating maintenance
 - ▶ **Results:** Improved corrosion control, longer service life, and reduced maintenance costs

CALL TO ACTION

In order to support the maritime corrosion control workforce, WE AS CONSTITUENTS RESPECTFULLY ASK Congressman/Congresswoman XYZ to support the following bipartisan, bicameral legislation:

1. **S. 1541, the Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act.**
Example language: “As constituents, voters, and members of the maritime industrial base, we respectfully request Congressman/Congresswoman XYZ to support the SHIPS for America Act.”
2. **If the Member already supports, say THANK YOU and proceed to ask #2:** We appreciate your office’s support. Given the dozens of competing priorities around Congress and the Administration, we urge you to keep the SHIPS Act and any other complementary legislation at the top of mind.
3. **Following introductions and discussion of the SHIPS for America Act, IF TIME ALLOWS, AMPP members may proceed with optional talking points:**
 - What priorities does Member XYZ have in the realm of shipbuilding and the maritime industry?
 - What sorts of adjacent industries are in the Member’s home district?
4. **(If the office already supports the SHIPS for America Act):**
 - What obstacles do you expect in getting the SHIPS Act across the finish line (to the President’s desk for signing)?
 - How can AMPP be helpful, if at all, in assisting with the effort to “move” (Congressional lingo meaning “to vote upon and pass”) the SHIPS Act?

5. Be sure to take notes during meetings! All information discussed is extremely valuable for future AMPP government relations’ efforts.

CLOSING AND QUESTIONS

- In closing, thank you again for your time today.
- We want to work with you to maximize the potential of the U.S. maritime industrial base. Please do not hesitate to contact us or AMPP Government Relations if we might provide technical assistance in the future.
- Leave pamphlet and business cards (if applicable).

Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) Act (H.R. 3151/S.1541)

The SHIPS for America Act directly benefits the maritime corrosion control industry by prioritizing investments in U.S. shipyards, modernizing infrastructure, and streamlining regulatory processes—all of which drive demand for corrosion mitigation expertise. The legislation also supports workforce development through specialized training programs, loan forgiveness for skilled trades, and incentives for transitioning military personnel with relevant technical experience. By revitalizing domestic shipbuilding and repair, the Act ensures long-term opportunities for corrosion control professionals to safeguard vessels, port facilities, and critical maritime assets.

- **Expands Demand for Corrosion Control Expertise:** The Act’s focus on rebuilding U.S. shipyards and extending vessel lifespans (e.g., 21-year fleet commitments) ensures sustained demand for corrosion prevention, coatings, and maintenance, creating stable jobs and innovation opportunities in the sector.
- **Invests in Specialized Training:** Workforce provisions like Centers of Excellence and modernized credentialing programs will equip corrosion control professionals with advanced skills, aligning training with industry needs (e.g., new materials, coatings tech, and regulatory standards).
- **Leverages Military Talent:** By easing transitions for veterans with relevant technical backgrounds (e.g., Navy welders, Coast Guard inspectors), the Act strengthens the talent pipeline for corrosion control roles, combining military precision with civilian industry growth.

Senate Leads (S. 1541)

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ)

Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)

Senate Cosponsors

Full list may be found at [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)

House Leads (H.R. 3151)

Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)

Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS)

134 Total Cosponsors

Full list may be found at [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)



Advocacy Day Talking Points: AMPP & Pipeline Safety AMPP's Contributions to Energy Security and Infrastructure Reliability

Pipeline safety isn't just regulation; it's execution, and execution depends on trained corrosion professionals. The U.S. relies on a vast pipeline network to deliver energy every day. Keeping that system safe and reliable is where AMPP members play a direct role.

- **Improve Safety and Reduce Risk:** Corrosion is one of the main causes of pipeline failures. AMPP's standards and field expertise help reduce those risks before they turn into incidents.
- **Strengthen Workforce Capacity:** There's no substitute for a trained workforce. AMPP supports that pipeline by certifying the professionals responsible for inspection, integrity management, and mitigation.
- **Advance Industry Standards:** The standards developed through AMPP are widely used across the industry and form the technical backbone of many pipeline safety programs.
- **Address Emerging Threats:** As electric transmission reconductoring expands, AC interference is becoming a growing risk to pipelines. Addressing it requires better coordination between pipeline operators, utilities, and federal agencies, with AMPP standards providing a consistent framework.
- **Support Energy Security:** Reliable pipelines don't happen by accident. They depend on consistent standards, trained professionals, and ongoing oversight, areas where AMPP is already deeply involved.

Why AMPP Is a Trusted Authority in Pipeline Safety

- **Standards That Are Already in Use:** AMPP standards such as SP0169 and SP0177 are widely recognized and used across the pipeline sector, including in federal guidance and PHMSA regulations.
- **A Workforce the Industry Relies On:** Certifications like Cathodic Protection Technician (CP Tec) are considered the benchmark for corrosion professionals.
- **Ongoing Coordination with Government:** AMPP works directly with PHMSA and participates in technical discussions to help keep regulations aligned with current practice.
- **Experience with Emerging Issues:** As more transmission lines are upgraded through reconductoring (REWIRE Act), AC interference is becoming a growing risk for pipelines. AMPP standards help address those challenges.

CALL TO ACTION

To strengthen pipeline safety and support the corrosion control workforce, WE AS CONSTITUENTS RESPECTFULLY ASK Congressman/Congresswoman XYZ to support the following legislation:

1. H.R. 5301, the Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act.

Example language: "As constituents, employers, and corrosion prevention professionals, we respectfully request [Member Name] to support reauthorization of the PIPES Act with strong corrosion mitigation provisions, including improved coordination between pipeline operators, utilities, and federal agencies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and U.S. Department of Energy to support timely data sharing, notification, and proactive risk mitigation."



2. If the Member already supports:

"We appreciate your office's support. Given the importance of energy infrastructure to national security and economic stability, we urge you to keep the PIPES Act and related pipeline safety efforts a priority."

3. Optional discussion questions (if time allows):

- What pipeline safety or energy infrastructure priorities are most important in your district?
- How is your office addressing workforce development in the energy sector?

4. If the office already supports the PIPES Act:

- What challenges do you see in advancing pipeline safety legislation?
- How can AMPP support your office with technical expertise or industry insight?

5. Be sure to take notes during meetings. Insights are critical for future AMPP advocacy efforts.

Pipeline Efficiency and Safety (PIPES) Act (H.R. 5301)

The PIPES Act strengthens the safety, reliability, and performance of the nation's pipeline infrastructure by reauthorizing and enhancing the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The United States relies on more than 2.7 million miles of pipelines to move energy across the country, making safety and reliability essential. The legislation advances inspection requirements, integrity management, and the adoption of corrosion mitigation standards to help ensure this system remains safe and resilient.

Pipeline corrosion failures cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$9 billion each year, including repairs, lost product, environmental remediation, and public safety impacts. By modernizing pipeline safety regulations and expanding workforce and inspection capacity, the Act helps address these risks while reinforcing the role of standards and trained professionals in protecting critical energy infrastructure.

- **Strengthens Corrosion Mitigation Requirements:** Updates to pipeline safety rules create more opportunities to incorporate established corrosion control standards, including those developed through AMPP.
- **Expands Inspection and Integrity Management:** As inspection requirements increase, so does the need for qualified professionals who can carry out that work.
- **Addresses Emerging Risks:** The Act supports efforts to deal with newer threats like AC interference, which are becoming more common as infrastructure evolves.
- **Supports Workforce Development:** More oversight and inspection activity means a greater need for trained and credentialed corrosion professionals.
- **Enhances Energy Security:** A reliable pipeline system depends on consistent maintenance and corrosion prevention, both of which are central to long-term performance.

Senate Authorization Committee	House Authorization Committee
N/A	House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee House Energy & Commerce Committee
Key Senate Champions	House Authorization Committee
N/A	Five Original Sponsors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) • Rep. Rick Larson (D-WA) • Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL) • Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ)

Advocacy Day Talking Points: AMPP & Water Infrastructure AMPP's Contributions Contributions to Infrastructure Resilience and Public Safety

WRDA recognizes corrosion, but implementation determines impact. Across the country, there's renewed investment in ports, dams, levees, and waterways. Making sure those projects hold up over time is where corrosion control becomes critical.

- **Extend Asset Lifespan, Reduce Costs:** Corrosion is one of the biggest deterioration drivers. AMPP helps extend the life of these assets and reduce the need for costly repairs.
- **Strengthen Infrastructure Resilience:** Preventing corrosion is key to maintaining structural integrity, especially in systems that communities depend on every day.
- **Advance Corrosion Standards:** AMPP standards are already used across water infrastructure and help guide how materials are protected and maintained.
- **Support Workforce Readiness:** These projects rely on trained inspectors and technicians. AMPP plays a role in preparing that workforce.
- **Address Aging Infrastructure Challenges:** Many of these assets are decades old. Identifying and managing corrosion risk is a big part of keeping them operational.

Why AMPP Is a Trusted Authority in Water Infrastructure

- **Established Relationship with USACE:** AMPP standards are referenced in Corps specifications and guidance used across civil works projects.
- **Broad Technical Scope:** The organization covers corrosion in both steel and reinforced concrete across a range of environments.
- **Workforce Development:** Programs like CIP and cathodic protection certifications help ensure qualified people are in place to do the work.
- **Proven in the Field:** These standards and training programs are already being used across ports, dams, levees, and waterways.

Supporting Data and Context

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers faces a maintenance backlog of more than \$38 billion across ports, dams, levees, and waterways, much of it tied to corrosion and long-term deterioration.
- The federal government oversees an estimated \$4.6 trillion in water infrastructure assets, where corrosion is a leading cause of degradation in steel and concrete systems.
- The Corps owns more than 900 dams, many over 50 years old and in need of rehabilitation, with corrosion a key concern.
- More than 25,000 miles of inland waterways rely on locks and dams that depend on coatings and corrosion protection systems to stay operational.

CALL TO ACTION

To strengthen water infrastructure and ensure long-term performance of federally funded assets, WE AS CONSTITUENTS RESPECTFULLY ASK Congressman/Congresswoman XYZ to support the following legislation:

1. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
Example language: "As constituents and infrastructure protection professionals, we respectfully request [Member Name] to support strong WRDA authorization, including provisions that incorporate recognized corrosion protection standards into federally funded water infrastructure projects."
2. **If the Member already supports:**
"We appreciate your office's support. Given the scale of the nation's water infrastructure challenges, we urge you to prioritize implementation that ensures long-term performance and reliability."
3. **Optional discussion questions (if time allows):**
— What water infrastructure priorities are most critical in your district?
— How is your office addressing maintenance and resilience of aging infrastructure?
4. **If the office already supports WRDA:**
— What challenges do you see in funding and implementing water infrastructure projects?
— How can AMPP support your office with technical expertise or standards guidance?
5. **Be sure to take notes during meetings.** Insights are critical for future AMPP advocacy efforts.

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is the primary legislative vehicle for authorizing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) water infrastructure projects, including ports, harbors, dams, levees, and inland waterways. Enacted on a roughly two-year cycle, WRDA shapes how these assets are designed, constructed, and maintained.

For AMPP, WRDA represents a critical opportunity to integrate corrosion-prevention and materials-performance standards into federally funded infrastructure, ensuring long-term durability, safety, and return on investment.

- **Drives Demand for Corrosion Expertise:** Projects authorized under WRDA rely on corrosion control to perform over the long term.
- **Advances Standards in Federal Projects:** The legislation opens the door to incorporating established corrosion protection standards into project requirements.
- **Addresses Aging Infrastructure:** Many systems need rehabilitation, and corrosion is often at the center of that work.
- **Supports Port and Coastal Infrastructure:** Investment in these areas increases the need for coatings, cathodic protection, and technical expertise.
- **Improves Safety and Reliability:** Maintaining structural integrity depends on addressing corrosion before it becomes a failure point.

Senate Authorization Committee	House Authorization Committee
Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee	House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee
Key Senate Champions	House Authorization Committee
EPW Committee Chair & Ranking Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T&I • Committee Chair & Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment

Congress 101

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Congress is a bicameral chamber comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate. There are 535 members of Congress, 435 in the House, and 100 in the Senate. House members serve 2-year terms, meaning they are up for reelection every election, while Senators serve 6-year terms, meaning one-third of the chamber is up for reelection every two years.

The two chambers have an equal part in the legislative process.

- Only the House can originate revenue legislation, and only the Senate can confirm presidential nominations and approve treaties.
- Both chambers must separately pass a bill in the same form before presenting it to the President to sign into law.
- When legislative bills differ on the same subject, the House and Senate meet in conference to hash out their differences.
- Only after the conference process does the negotiated bill go back to each chamber for passage to the President.

PARTY LEADERSHIP

Congress can only run with both parties' leadership in each chamber. These leaders are elected by their party's caucus in each chamber of Congress. Majority party leaders have unique power sets depending on which chamber they serve. In the House, party leaders have more ability to set the policy agenda for the chamber and decide which legislative proposals get onto the House floor for consideration. In the Senate, the majority party proposes legislation, but they typically must negotiate with the minority party to move legislation through the chamber.

Congress 101

LEGISLATION AND OVERSIGHT

Each chamber has the authority to create its own rules for how they govern during each session of Congress. Throughout the years, both chambers have developed different ways of moving legislation. House rules typically allow a numerical majority to push legislation through quickly. At the same time, the Senate is much more deliberative and provides significant leverage to individual Senators in the chamber.

Both chambers have standing committees that lead in developing and accessing proposed legislation. Members typically serve on a small number of these committees, which allows them to become knowledgeable in specific policy areas. The majority party in the chamber chairs all committees, and they work with the ranking members of the minority party on those committees on legislative proposals of importance.

In addition to its legislative duties, Congress also has oversight responsibilities. This responsibility allows them to investigate and hold hearings on government programs and agencies to ensure they operate effectively and efficiently.

PRESIDENTIAL INFLUENCE

The President also influences how Congress shapes its legislation. Each year, the President recommends an annual federal budget for agencies and does suggest legislation. The President's most powerful tool in the legislative process is the veto. The President can veto any bill that comes to his desk from Congress, making it quite unusual that Congress would pass legislation with the threat of a veto.

REPRESENTING AMPP

Understanding how Congress works is essential for anyone who wants to be an engaged and informed citizen. By staying informed about the actions of your elected representatives, you can help ensure that AMPP's voice is heard and that your interests are represented in the legislative process.





JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Post your advocacy experiences using #AMPPAdvocacy26 and share your photos and videos with us by scanning the QR code!



Need help? Contact
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AMPP[®]

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