



**FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION**  
800 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20573-0001

Phone: (202) 523-5725  
Secretary@FMC.gov

August 4, 2023

Mr. Michael Symonanis  
Chair, National Shipper Advisory Committee

Dear Chairman Symonanis:

On behalf of the Federal Maritime Commission (Commission), this letter responds to the below recommendation of the National Shipper Advisory Committee (NSAC) submitted to the Commission on June 5, 2023.

NSAC Recommendation:

**Recommendation:** Require Ocean Carriers and their subcontracted parties, i.e., MTOs, rail carriers, chassis providers, container depots, etc. to publish consistent, aligned, and timely data on the following data elements:

**Export Cargo:**

- Empty pickup container yard location
- Empty pickup date
- Documentation Cutoff
- Physical Cutoff
- Loaded container location and earliest return date
- Loaded container ingate return

**Import Cargo:**

- Container pickup available date
- Container last free port demurrage date
- Container last free equipment detention date
- Empty container return yard location options

Commission Response:

Commissioner Carl W. Bentzel led a Maritime Transportation Data Initiative (MTDI). Commissioner Bentzel held meetings open to the public with maritime and intermodal stakeholders starting in December 2021 and continuing through to a Data Summit in June 2022. Commissioner Bentzel completed his final report in April 2023. All information regarding this project, including recordings of the meetings and his report are available at: <https://www.fmc.gov/fmc-maritime-transportation-data-initiative/>.

At the Commission's May 3, 2023, meeting, Commissioner Bentzel summarized his work on the MTDI and the recommendation he identified for next steps. Insofar as this is still an ongoing process, the Commission thanks the NSAC for its recommendations. It will take them into consideration as it determines next steps for the MTDI.

Per the requirements set forth in the legislation establishing the NSAC, this recommendation has been published on the Commission's website and will be submitted to the appropriate Congressional committees. Please direct any questions regarding this response to the NSAC Designated Federal Officer.

Sincerely,

William Cody  
Secretary