



December 19, 2011

Ms. Karen V. Gregory  
Secretary  
Federal Maritime Commission  
800 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20573-0001

Subject: Docket No. 11-19, *U.S. Containerized Cargo Flows – Response to NOI*

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the region's oldest and largest chamber of commerce, I am submitting the following comments in response to the Federal Maritime Commission's Notice of Inquiry on factors that may cause or contribute to the shift of cargo destined for the U.S. inland from U.S. to Canadian and Mexican seaports.

The Chicagoland region is one of the nation's largest transportation hubs for international cargo transitioning cargo from a majority of North American sea ports to domestic markets throughout the central portion of the United States. The members of the Chamber anticipate receiving their international cargo at the best price available to ensure a fair price to their customers.

Trade between the United States and Canada, as well as the ability to choose from among a variety of North American ports for imports and exports, are essential to the success of the businesses we represent. It is the Chamber's opinion that the Federal Maritime Commission develops a policy that maintains the nation's competitiveness and encourages the use of U.S. seaports without burdening U.S. companies and customers depending on the cargo.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. Please include this letter in the public docket for this proceeding.

Sincerely,

*Thank You*

*Gerald J. Roper*

Gerald J. Roper  
President and CEO  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce