

City of Memphis



A C WHARTON, JR.
MAYOR

TENNESSEE

December 21, 2011

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

Dear Secretary Gregory:

I was advised of the Federal Maritime Commission's inquiry regarding the containerized cargo being handled through Canadian ports and the relationship to U. S. ports. In Memphis, we have cultivated relationships with ports in the United States on the east, west, and gulf coasts. We have worked diligently to enhance infrastructure connecting our city to these ports. We have also developed alliances with Canadian ports serving Asia and Europe to facilitate trade between our regions and those of other strong economies.

Because we are connected directly to the west coast of Canada through the CN Railroad, Memphis, as well as Chicago, has directly benefitted from the additional service that can be offered to the businesses and consumers of our nation. Containerized cargo is projected to continue increasing significantly over the next several decades. Congestion on our highways, as well as existing rail lines, is expected to worsen as well. For us to remain competitive as a nation, we need to embrace all of the alternatives for moving freight and allow the marketplace to dictate the most efficient means of delivery.

We encourage you to maintain free and open competition among U. S. and other North American Ports without financial or regulatory restrictions imposed by the federal government.

As one of the key inland ports in the country, our International Port of Memphis is a crucial component of our freight infrastructure. Accordingly, we greatly appreciate the work of the FMC to grow water borne trade in this country and the role you play in maintenance and development of our ports and harbors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A C Wharton, Jr.", written over a white background.

A C Wharton, Jr.
Mayor