



CONGRESSMAN SEAN P. DUFFY
7TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

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January 6, 2012

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:

I am writing 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 United States from U.S. to Canadian and Mexican seaports. I understand Congressmen Petri and Craavack as well as Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and other interested parties have submitted comments on this matter.

The Seventh Congressional District of Wisconsin relies on Canadian imports such as plastic and fertilizer for manufacturing and farming production. Wood pulp imports from Canada also help to keep Wisconsin the number one paper producer in the country. Wisconsin trades more with Canada than it does with its next six export markets combined. In total, approximately 156,500 Wisconsin jobs depend on trade with Canada.

Considering the significance of Wisconsin's trade with Canada, I am opposed to any new tax increases that would further interfere with the competitiveness of intermodal transport or impede on the goodwill trade relationship shared by the United States and Canada. To ensure the competitiveness of American ports, the United States should start by examining how receipts from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) could be better utilized to improve infrastructure for Maritime transportation.

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

Sincerely,

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress