

December 21, 2011

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

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce (DACC) submits these comments in response to the Federal Maritime Commission's Notice of Inquiry on factors that may contribute to shifting of cargo destined for the U.S. inland from U.S. to Canadian and Mexican seaports.

The DACC 1300 members represent a broad range of businesses and agencies. Our region's economy is heavily dependent on free and open international trade with the port of Duluth and Superior ranking as the number one volume port on the Great Lakes and the second largest dry bulk port in the country. Cargo bound for the United States from Canadian seaports is transported via Canadian National Railroad (CN). CN is a significant economic player in northeastern Minnesota with 465 employees, 452 route miles and \$72 million annually in local spending.

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 is essential to the success of businesses we represent and has significant influence on northeastern Minnesota's economy.

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

Sincerely,



Roger Wedin
Director of Policy and Education
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce