



Fox Cities

Chamber of Commerce & Industry

RECEIVED

2011 DEC 28 PM 1:21

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

December 21, 2011

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

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

Dear Secretary Gregory:

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry located, in Appleton, Wisconsin, represents over 1400 business in the second largest metropolitan statistical area in the state.

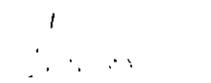
Despite experiencing significant manufacturing loses over the past decade, the area remains one of the top 50 manufacturing centers in the country, and those manufacturers rely greatly on quick, efficient access to raw materials from around the world, as well as export access to those markets.

Much of Wisconsin's international trade flows through ports on the west coast, including those of our largest trading partner, Canada. The availability of options for ports and shipping lanes should help to keep shipping costs competitive. However, the implementation of the Harbor Maintenance Tax in 1986 has helped to compromise that balance, and caused the Federal Maritime Commission to consider applying the tax to cross-border shipping via freight rail.

We would suggest that a more reasonable approach to increasing the competitiveness of U. S. ports would be to reduce the tax. This scenario would also lessen the potential for creating complications with our largest trading partner.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue, and respectfully request that this letter be included in the public docket for the proceeding.

Most sincerely,


Shannon Full
President & CEO