

Karen Gregory

From: Secretary
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2011 9:28 AM
To: Karen Gregory; Rachel Dickon
Subject: FW: US Containerized Cargo Flows--Response to NOI
Attachments: Secretary Karen V Gregory from GMC.docx; Dexter Muller Signature.doc

From: Janelle Robinson [<mailto:jrobinson@memphischamber.com>] **On Behalf Of** Dexter Muller
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2011 5:03 PM
To: Secretary
Subject: US Containerized Cargo Flows--Response to NOI

Good afternoon,

The attached letter is a submission from The Greater Memphis Chamber regarding the Notice of Inquiry in the Federal Registry soliciting views on the shift for containerized cargo to Canadian ports from US Ports.

A hard copy of the attached letter is also being sent. If you have questions, please feel free to give me a call at 901-543-3543.

Thank you for your consideration.



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December 19, 2011

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

Dear Secretary Gregory:

I am submitting this letter regarding the Notice of Inquiry in the Federal Register soliciting views on the factors influencing the shift for containerized cargo to Canadian ports from U. S. Ports. First, I would like to express our appreciation for your solicitation and for allowing us an opportunity to comment on the topic.

Memphis is an "Inland Port" with the continent's busiest cargo airport, the fourth largest inland port, five Class I railroads, and approximately 150 million square feet of industrial space. In 2006 we were the 28th out of 368 metropolitan areas for exporting.

As we have developed our freight infrastructure, we have identified strategic alliances around the globe in North America, Asia, and Europe to facilitate trade for our companies and for the United States. We are very supportive of President Obama's goal of doubling exports in five years and believe that our community has a role to play in accomplishing this aggressive goal.

With regards to the Canadian ports, we have worked diligently to take advantage of all ports that serve Memphis including the west coast and east coast ports in the United States as well as the Canadian ports. We believe that this flexibility offers efficiency to our U. S. companies handling merchandise in Memphis to distribute all over the country. That efficiency translates into reduced cost and time for U. S. citizens and companies.

We believe that open markets and free trade are the most effective means to promote trade and to keep a competitive marketplace for our companies and consumers. These were tenets of the North American Free Trade Agreement and, since Canada is our largest trading partner, we are supportive of an open relationship free of additional regulation, tariffs or fees that would affect inbound or outbound goods.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and express our views for economic growth and opportunity.

Respectfully,



Dexter Muller, Sr. V. P.
Community Development