



International Falls Area
Chamber of Commerce

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

December 14, 2011

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:

The International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is submitting these comments 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 U.S. inland from U.S. to Canadian and Mexican seaports.

This Chamber's Board of Directors, in studying this issue, shares the concern for the U.S. seaports in the states of Washington and California. It also has equal concerns for the employment of citizens here in Minnesota, particularly northeastern Minnesota, who work for the Canadian National (CN) Railroad.

Cargo bound for the U.S. from the Canadian seaports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert, British Columbia via the CN Railroad, enters the U.S. through the Port of Ranier (International Falls, Minn.). Cargo traveling through the Ranier port results in significant employment and other economic benefits for citizens of northeastern Minnesota.

This exemplifies that circumstances do not result in all or nothing for U.S. citizens. Therefore, this Chamber reminds the Maritime Commission there are still gains for U.S. citizens when goods enter Canadian seaports.

The International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this issue and requests that you please include this letter in the public docket for this proceeding.

Respectfully,

Faye Whitbeck
President, I.F.A.C.O.C.

Cornerstone Of Our Community

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cc Honorable Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Honorable Sen. Al Franken
Honorable Rep. Chip Cravaack
Honorable Gov. Mark Dayton
International Falls City Council
Koochiching County Board of Commissioners
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Pres. David Olson