



SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS & MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

December 13, 2011

- Blue Island
- Burnham
- Calumet City
- Calumet Park
- Chicago Heights
- Country Club Hills
- Crete
- Dixmoor
- Dolton
- East Hazel Crest
- Flossmoor
- Ford Heights
- Glenwood
- Harvey
- Hazel Crest
- Homewood
- Lansing
- Lynwood
- Markham
- Matteson
- Midlothian
- Mokena
- Monee
- New Lenox
- Oak Forest
- Olympia Fields
- Orland Hills
- Orland Park
- Palos Heights
- Park Forest
- Phoenix
- Posen
- Richton Park
- Riverdale
- Robbins
- Sauk Village
- South Chicago Heights
- South Holland
- Steger
- Thornton
- Tinley Park
- University Park

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:

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) 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.

SSMMA is an intergovernmental organization representing 42 communities with 650,000 people in southern Cook and Will Counties in Illinois. The Association is active in numerous areas including transportation and economic development, which are vital to the economic health of our area

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, are essential to the success of the businesses we represent. Currently the Canadian National Railroad is undertaking a major expansion of its intermodal facility located in Harvey, Illinois. This expansion promises to spur development throughout a number of our communities, many of which are economically disadvantaged. The Canadian National gateway at Prince Rupert connects directly to the Harvey Intermodal facility and is their main Chicago area terminal.

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

Sincerely,

Edward W. Paesel
 Executive Director

EWP/scm