



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 6, 2012

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

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

I would like to offer my 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 United States inland from the United States to Canadian and Mexican seaports.

Numerous Minnesota companies and thousands of Minnesota jobs depend upon cost-effective rail access to the United States and Canadian ports on the West Coast, not only to deliver inputs for their production, but also to reach their global export markets. The selection of ports and shipping lanes is extremely competitive, and after careful consideration, many Minnesota companies choose to ship by way of the Canadian ports. The Commission should not recommend any changes that lead to unnecessarily higher costs at the border and which may have a negative impact on Minnesota's economy and jobs.

Minnesota businesses need to be able to select the ports used to import and export their products in a manner that enhances their competitiveness. Minnesota businesses use Canadian seaports for a number of reasons, including transit time; reliability; efficiency; and risk management practices. The United States Harbor Maintenance Tax is seldom, if ever, a factor in making these choices.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor