



June 29, 2012

Karen V. Gregory
Secretary
Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, N.W. Room 1046
Washington, D.C. 20573-0001

RE: Docket No. 12-07, Notice of Inquiry, *Solicitation of Views on Requests to Develop and Release Container Freight Rate Indices for U.S. Agricultural Exports Based on a Sampling of Service Contracts Filed With the FMC*

Dear Ms. Gregory:

The National Industrial Transportation League supports the request of the Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC) for an extension of the comment period for the Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in docket 12-07. The AgTC has requested a 30-day extension of the comment period to August 8, 2012.

Founded in 1907, the League is the oldest and largest organization of shippers in the United States. Its members conduct industrial and/or commercial enterprises of all sizes throughout the nation and overseas. The League's members ship a wide variety of commodities, via all modes of carriage, across interstate, intrastate, and international boundaries. Multiple League members export agricultural products from the U.S. via ocean transportation.

The League is currently in the process of collecting feedback from its members on the NOI through a survey and other means. The League would like more time to collect and analyze this feedback because, as the AgTC notes in its request, the issues that the NOI raises are complex and deserve serious consideration. Also the deadline for comments is immediately preceded by a national holiday, which makes gathering feedback and preparing comments more difficult. Accordingly, additional time will enable the League to gather more feedback from its members, conduct a more thorough analysis of this feedback, and thus submit more meaningful comments to the Commission.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Commission to grant AgTC's request for a 30-day extension of the comment period, to August 8, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce J. Carlton
President and CEO
The National Industrial Transportation League