

JERRY WELLER
11TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

**COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INCOME SECURITY AND
FAMILY SUPPORT
(RANKING MEMBER)**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE



**UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ORIGINAL
DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP
HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE
RECEIVED
LATIN AMERICA AND
CARIBBEAN WORKING GROUP
CHAIRMAN
PM 7/20
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Commissioner Joseph E. Brennan
The Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20573

September 26, 2008

Dear Commissioner Brennan:

I have been contacted by constituents who are ocean transportation intermediaries. As non-vessel operating common carriers, they purchase space aboard ocean vessels and then sell that space to shippers, in a highly competitive marketplace. Their ability to compete and operate efficiently is undermined by regulations that require them to publish their negotiated rates in formal tariffs.

I understand that this is out of step with a modern ocean transportation environment: shippers freely negotiate for the best rate available in the marketplace and today's rate may have little relevance to tomorrow's rate. To file information about an agreement after-the-fact only adds enormous expense and inefficiency. It also provides little value to the shipping public, as customers seldom review the tariff.

The National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc., (NCBFAA) has filed a petition to exempt ocean transportation intermediaries from this onerous requirement, an exemption that has already been provided to ocean carriers.

I would appreciate your taking note of my support for the NCBFAA petition by incorporating this letter in the record.

Sincerely,

Jerry Weller
Member of Congress