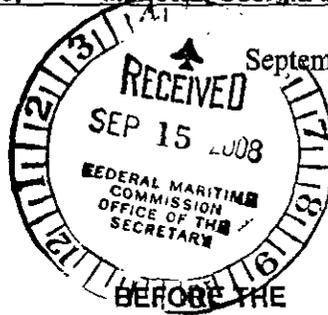


USA Shipping, LLC.

Lee Hardeman
Principal

1343 Terrell Mill Road Suite 200, Marietta, Georgia 30067-9472 Tel: (404) 317-8854

Attn: Assistant Secretary
Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20573



ORIGINAL

**FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**PETITION OF NATIONAL CUSTOMS BROKERS AND FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA FOR EXEMPTION
FROM MANDATORY RATE TARIFF PUBLICATION
DOCKET NO. P1-08
VERIFIED SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF LEE HARDEMAN**

I am Lee Hardeman, one of three principals of USA Shipping, LLC, a registered NVO, license number 16041N. We have one office, in Marietta, Georgia, and we have no agents or offices overseas. We have been operating for over eight years and, as a member of NCBFAA, are very familiar with issues relating to the requirements for mandatory publication of ocean rate tariffs. I STRONGLY support NCBFAA's petition to exempt NVOCCs from having to memorialize and publish rates in rate tariffs that have been negotiated with shippers.

We pay approximately \$1350 per year to our tariff publishing service, and we estimate we spend between 8 and 10 hours each month in making changes to the tariff. These costs are not assessed to anyone, but are pure overhead costs. To our knowledge, no one has ever accessed our tariff. None of our known customers get their rates from this published tariff. Approximately two percent of our costs are related to tariff compliance, but please note: ONE HUNDRED PERCENT of our tariffs are negotiated separately with our shippers, then we publish them.

Even though we have service contracts with steamship lines, many rates are negotiated on a spot market basis so that the traffic moves under bullet rates; as a result, NVOCC costs vary frequently and so the rates we offer will also vary frequently even for the same commodity moving in the same trade lane. Because the traffic usually moves almost immediately after the rates are negotiated, it is often difficult to ensure that the rates are memorialized in tariff form before the traffic moves.

VERIFIED SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF LEE HARDEMAN

DOCKET NO. P1-08

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More importantly, shippers are satisfied to rely on the rates quoted via email, so they are not confused about the rate; nor have there been any disagreements about what the rate is. It is clear that shippers don't need or rely upon rate tariffs.

Obviously, tariff filing is a gross waste of our time and resources. Our customers simply do not do business in this antiquated fashion. Tariff maintenance and compliance is archaic because our shippers call us to negotiate a rate based on current market conditions which, in this environment, change daily. While our costs are relatively low, they still must be imputed in our rates, creating an unnecessary expense for everyone. We strongly urge the Commission to approve NCBFAA Petition No. P1-08

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Hardeman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lee Hardeman
Principal

I, Lee Hardeman, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Further I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement.

Executed on September 15, 2008.

ATT8160446

Warmest regards!

Lee <><
Lee Hardeman Customs Broker, Inc.
PH: 404-361-1114 ext. 452
Direct: 404-477-3452
FAX: 404-361-1013
email: LeeH@LHCB.com

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS!

Physical address:

277 Southfield Parkway, Suite 135
Forest Park, GA 30297

Please visit our website at www.lhcb.com

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