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USA Shipping, LLC.

Lee Hardeman
Principal

1343 **Terrell** Mill Road Suite 200. Marietta, Georgia 30067-9472 Tel: **(770)** 956-3025

October 6, 2003

The Honorable Bryant L. Van Brakle
Secretary
Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20573

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

RE: Support of petition of National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc. for a Limited Exemption From Certain Tariff Requirements of the Shipping Act of 1984
Petition No. P05-03

Dear Secretary Van Brakle:

I am Lee Hardernan, one of three principals of USA Shipping, LLC, a registered NVO, license number 16041 N. We have one office, in Marietta, Georgia, and we have no agents or offices overseas.

I am pleased to furnish the following Information:

1. We paid approximately \$195 to establish our website.
2. We pay approximately \$1350 per year to our tariff publishing service.
3. We estimate we spend between 3 and 10 hours each month in making changes to the tariff.
4. These costs are not assessed to anyone, but are pure overhead costs.
5. We are able to track "hits" but we do not do so due to the cost. To our knowledge, no one has ever accessed our tariff. None of our known customers get their rates from this published tariff.
6. Approximately two percent of our costs are related to tariff compliance
7. One hundred percent of our tariffs are negotiated separately with our shippers, then we publish them.

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

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October 6, 2003
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compliance is archaic because our shippers call us to negotiate a rate based on current market conditions. While our costs are relatively low, they must be imputed in our rates, creating an unnecessary expense for everyone. We strongly urge the Commission to approve NCBFAA Petition No. P05-03.

Sincerely,



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 October 6, 2003.

