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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL MARITIME COMM

January 13, 2010

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

Subject: Petition of National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc.
for Exemption from Mandatory Rate Tariff Publication – Petition No. P1-08

I am Lori Fleissner, President of Global Fairways, Inc. (“GFW”), headquartered in Romulus, Michigan, and operating two branch offices in the U.S. located in the New York and Chicago areas.

On September 16, 2008, I submitted a Verified Supporting Statement in support of NCBFAA’s Petition to FMC, Docket No. P1-08 regarding the above mentioned subject.

I would like to add that even in the time from September 2008, when my comments were first submitted, to present day, the ocean shipping industry is even more so in a state of constant fluctuation, thus causing turmoil due to the ever-changing carrier rates – even in cases where we have a service contract. This is mainly due to the various GRIs, surcharges, BAFs, CAFs, etc.

These rate changes require GFW to continually publish rate adjustments in the tariff for various types of containers (20’, 40’, hi-cube) so much so that the number of individual rate items that need to be changed far exceeds the amount of changes any individual change a carrier might make.

Because GFW is a small company, the cost to develop a dedicated software system for rate tariff publication is out of the question. Therefore, to be compliant, GFW must pay a tariff publishing agent for this purpose. In 2009, \$3,500.00 (average of \$292.00 per month) was paid to the tariff publishing agent. Besides this cost paid to the tariff publishing agent, consider the substantial percentage of employee time eaten up with the task of overseeing the rate publication process. This may not appear to be an extensive amount of dollars, but it is very much so to a small company such as GFW, where to stay in business every cost is scrutinized for relevance/effectiveness versus cost and this particular cost does not have neither relevance nor effectiveness whatsoever.

During 2009, GFW experienced an extreme economic downturn, as did a large majority of U.S. businesses. Even though we have had to let some staff go, we have been trying to keep our staff working versus layoffs and to do so, remaining staff of GFW agreed to take a 19% pay cut last year. As with many in our same situation, it has been very frustrating seeing money going down the drain of futility over the rate tariff publications when the funds/time spent could be better utilized to keep an employee working.

Lastly, because of the issues stressed above, please consider our overwhelming support along with the NCBFFA to eliminate the tariff publication burden due to the cost in time/dollars spent in maintaining one of the largest unnecessary obstacles burdening the operations of NVOCCs. Let me also reiterate the point that the rate tariffs do not serve any purpose and have never been reviewed by anyone.

I, Lori Fleissner, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Lori Fleissner
President