



The Canadian Merchant Service Guild

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MASTERS - MATES – PILOTS – ENGINEERS AND OTHER MARINE OFFICERS

La Guilde de la Marine Marchande du Canada

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES CAPITAINES – OFFICIERS DE PONT – PILOTES – MÉCANICIENS ET AUTRES OFFICIERS MARINS

AFFILIATED WITH / AFFILIÉE À

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION - INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION - NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES PILOTES MARITIMES - FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES OUVRIERS DU TRANSPORT - CONSEIL NATIONAL MIXTE DU CANADA

OTTAWA - VANCOUVER - THOROLD - QUÉBEC - DARTMOUTH - ST. JOHN'S

November 8, 2016

Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport
Transport Canada
Place de Ville – 330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Garneau,

We have followed with great interest events over this past year regarding the development of a long-term transportation strategy for Canada. The tabling in Parliament in February of the Final Report of the Canada Transportation Act Review, was followed in April by your speech to the Economic Club of Canada, wherein you set out a preliminary framework for considering such a strategy. Stakeholders were invited to participate in subsequent consultations to further develop this vision.

Over the summer, we had the opportunity to correspond with your Deputy Minister on policy matters of direct concern to the Canadian Merchant Service Guild (“the Guild”) and its members, and to meet with senior officials responsible for the development and administration of marine policies and programs.

The Guild applauds your determination and efforts to articulate a comprehensive vision to guide the development of good public policy, and to then make sound investments and establish productive public-private partnerships for years to come. Your speech in Montreal on November 03, which set out your vision for Transportation 2030, constitutes a welcome framework for further developing specific transportation policies and initiatives in all modes.

Meanwhile, one particular issue – the Coasting Trade Act or, more specifically, the Emerson recommendation related to it – has captured our special attention and has been the object of our own in-depth examination. The results of that examination are the principal subject of the attached submission and the sole focus of an economic impact study, also attached, that was undertaken on the Guild’s behalf over the last several months.

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The Emerson recommendation to remove requirements that short sea shipping be operated by Canadian-registered vessels crewed by Canadians, would have serious negative consequences. Canadian jobs would be lost, the country's marine training capacity would be rendered almost non-existent, the domestic shipping industry would be seriously weakened, and the economy as a whole would suffer. The Guild joins other marine stakeholders in strongly urging the Government of Canada to reject this recommendation and instead to work with the sector to identify measures that ensure Canada's merchant marine is able to fully contribute to the country's prosperity.

Members of the Guild look forward to collaborating with you and your officials as the new 2030 Strategic Plan is introduced and implemented.

Sincerely,



Mark Boucher
National President

cc: Michael Keenan, Deputy Minister
Shawn Tupper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy
Laureen Kinney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Safety & Security
Donald Roussel, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Safety & Security
Joyce Henry, Director General, Marine Policy
Jane Weldon, Director General, Marine Safety

attachments:

- Submission to the Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport
- Impacts of Proposed Changes to the Coasting Trade Act