

**STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE REBECCA DYE
COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
MAY 13, 2009**

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today. Since our last appearance before the Subcommittee last year, the Commission has made significant operational and management improvements. The areas about which I am most pleased include significant personnel changes and related personnel surveys and human capital plans, a predictable and public Commission hearing schedule, completion of our fiscal years 2010 through 2015 Strategic Plan, and the important information technology improvements in our agency.

Before I discuss these areas, I would also like to thank the Subcommittee for your significant oversight activities involving the Commission during the last two years. I believe the Subcommittee's continued

constructive interest in our agency has lead to important changes in Commission practices. These changes have greatly improved our agency's performance. I would also like to specifically thank Chairman Cummings and Ranking Republican LoBiondo and their capable staffs for the cooperation and support they have displayed while working with us and our staff.

The Commission has filled a number of personnel vacancies which have resulted from the large number of Commission employees who have either retired or found positions outside the Commission. Of the staff that report directly to the Commission, the Commission has retained a new permanent General Counsel, Secretary, and Director of our Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. On September 28, 2008, the Commission appointed Karen Gregory to be the Commission's Secretary and Peter King to be the Commission's General Counsel.

I am also happy to report that last December the Commission hired Keith Gilmore to be the Director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. I had the

opportunity to be the Commissioners' representative on the panel which conducted the interviews for this position at the Commission. Our EEO Director's position had been vacant since November, 2007, we were searching for a highly qualified individual to lead a robust EEO program for our agency. Mr. Gilmore served with the Federal Aviation Administration and has significant EEO experience.

Another direct result of the Subcommittee's interest in the Commission is the establishment of regularly scheduled Commission meetings to facilitate Commission discussion and action on matters before the agency. Every three months, the Commission publishes a schedule of meetings for the next three months. I believe these meetings have improved the public transparency of the Commission's decision making process, and have resulted in better Commission decisions overall.

Late last November, the Commission submitted to Congress its new Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2010 through 2015. The plan is different from the agency's former five-year plan in several ways. It replaces the

five former strategic goals contained in the earlier plan with three goals to better capture the agency's regulatory focus. In short, the dual focus of the Federal Maritime Commission is consumer protection and competition enforcement in ocean transportation

At our next Commission meeting scheduled for May 20, the Commission will consider our Human Capital Plan developed in cooperation with the National Business Center to address several human capital objectives. The plan will align our human resources with our operational, information technology, and support processes to enhance performance-based decision making. One of the most important parts of the Plan is the agency Succession Management Plan to ensure continuity of leadership in the agency.

I have been a strong supporter of using agency resources to improve the information technology at the Commission. I support President Obama's agenda to use cutting-edge technologies to create a new level of government transparency, accountability, and participation for America's citizens. Last year, we dedicated budgetary savings to two important

communication projects, one of which will allow video conferencing from monitors placed strategically around the agency, and another to facilitate streaming video from our Commission meetings and hearings. These communication improvements will enhance the Commission's ability to more effectively communicate both internally and externally. Through these improvements, the Commission will be able to more timely disseminate information on its actions and activities, better communicate its mission strategies and objectives, and reach a wider audience.

Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to speak to and meet with a number of groups with a direct interest in the Commission's maritime regulatory policies. In April, I traveled to London and spoke at the Global Liner Shipping Conference. My remarks focused on the U.S.'s and European Union's two systems of regulating ocean shipping liner operators.

Later in April, I also spoke at the annual conference of the National Custom Brokers and Forwarders Association of America. This important group of ocean

transportation intermediaries was interested in hearing about the Commission's regulatory actions. I discussed carrier antitrust immunity, possible regulatory changes affecting OTIs, as well as the Commission's involvement with Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Clean Truck Program.

On May 6th, the Commission and its staff met with representatives of the Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Associations. The meeting allowed members of this private group and the Commission staff to exchange views thereby gaining greater insight and understanding of current issues and concerns affecting the freight forwarding and non-vessel-operating common carrier industry conducting business on the west coast.

All of these groups displayed a respect for the Commission and praised the Commission for its actions in a number of its proceedings during the past year.

Finally, I could not leave here today without recognizing Commission Hal Creel who has announced that he will be leaving the agency at the end of his term on June 30th. I have truly enjoyed working with

Commissioner Creel during his many years with the Commission and on Capitol Hill. His departure is a huge loss to the Commission. I am going to miss him, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee today.