

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

JAN 10 2017

Mr. Mark Boucher
National President
The Canadian Merchant Service Guild
67-27 Auriga Drive
Ottawa ON K2E 0B1

Dear Mr. Boucher:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 8, 2016, regarding the recommendations outlined in the *Canada Transportation Act Review Report*.

As you noted in your letter, the Report's recommendation regarding the *Coasting Trade Act* suggests the opening of cabotage to foreign vessels. At this time, further study is needed to analyze the impacts, costs and benefits of the Act on domestic operations and the Canadian economy, and to determine how to address the Report's recommendation. As such, I appreciate the economic impact study you enclosed with your correspondence, given that it represents valuable information that will assist in Transport Canada's analysis. Additional feedback from your organization will be essential in understanding the implications of any future changes on Canadian vessel operations, and what measures need to be put in place to support the domestic industry going forward.

As you are aware, in 2016, departmental officials and I engaged a broad array of Canadians and stakeholders to hear views and discuss ideas on key transportation issues and priorities. This process led to the development of the recently announced Transportation 2030, a strategy plan for the future of transportation in Canada. Over the course of the government's mandate, more initiatives will be brought forward and I will continue to consult with Canadians. Information on initiatives will be posted online and updated regularly at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/future-transportation-canada.html>.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your views with me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Garneau".

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport