



DRAFT MEMORANDUM

TO: Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

FROM: MLCC Government Affairs Committee

DATE: Friday, December 20, 2013

SUBJECT: Support for USCG Load Line Exemption for River Barges on Lake Michigan (Muskegon Route); Docket #USCG-2013-0954

Recommended By:

The following statement of support is being recommended by the MLCC Government Affairs Committee.

Proposed Position & Recommendation:

The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce supports regulations that allow for river barge vessels to travel in Lake Michigan. Adding the option of River Barge transportation will provide West Michigan companies a competitive advantage by increasing opportunities for affordable and efficient movement of goods to and from the region. New barge traffic will maximize the use of a valued resource, the Muskegon Port. Additional public and private investment in port infrastructure will create jobs locally and support the Great Lakes shipping industry. This investment should also positively impact other industries such as agriculture, renewable energy, manufacturing and tourism. It is important to note that the chamber supports this additional barge traffic if it is safe, affordable, and meets the environmental standards set by all appropriate federal, state and local agencies.

Endorsed by the MLCC Government Affairs Committee – December 20, 2013

Endorsed by the MLCC Board of Directors – January 16, 2014