

Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0G2

Mr. C.H.J. Hibbeln  
Chairman  
Exporters' Coalition on  
Canadian Maritime Policy  
99 Bank Street, Suite 250  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5B9

Dear Mr. Hibbeln:

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 1986, which brings to my notice the impressive credentials of the Exporters' Coalition on Canadian Maritime Policy, and the concerns of the Coalition with respect to a number of shipping related problems recently encountered in a number of Canadian trades, particularly with certain developing countries.

As Minister for International Trade, I am very aware of the critical importance of efficient transportation and distribution to the competitive position of Canadian exporters abroad. I understand that your particular concern relates to restrictive cargo sharing legislation recently enacted by a number of South American countries, and that in seeking my Department's co-sponsorship of a series of seminars to discuss possible solutions, you are anxious to ensure that both exporters and importers are given the opportunity to thoroughly discuss this complex matter.

I am pleased that the Coalition has taken this timely initiative and, as announced at the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Export Association in Vancouver, can confirm that my Department will be pleased to co-sponsor the workshop seminar series with the objective of developing recommendations on the most appropriate measures which the Department and the Canadian Government might consider and adopt in the light of these changing circumstances.

I appreciate the Exporters' Coalition bringing this matter to my attention. With respect to your kind invitation to participate in the final conference in Ottawa, I would ask that you contact my scheduling assistant, Ms. Marie Ménard, at (613) 992-7332 with further details on the date and time of this event.

I have asked Mr. I.G. Lochhead, Director of the Transportation Division, Department of External Affairs, to participate as required and to coordinate the Department's input to the seminar series. I would suggest you contact him at the earliest opportunity to initiate the necessary planning and organization, and to finalize the detailed terms of the Department's co-sponsorship of this worthwhile proposal.

Sincerely,

Pat Carney