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From: Pat Andreatta <pandreatta@sbcglobal.net>
To: <secretary@fmc.gov>
Date: Fri, May 30, 2003 4:26 PM
Subject: FMC Docket 02-I 5

Der Mr. VanBrakle,
It has come to my attention that the Federal Maritime Commission is suggesting that cruise ships have a bond to cover consumers in case of the defalt of a cruise line. In this fragile time of traveling, I think the idea of adding more cost to a passengers rate is absolutely ludicrous. Already, they are paying port charges, government fees and taxes, security fees, many times head taxes in various ports of call. As these fees and taxes escalate, I find it harder and harder for the traveling public to feel that they are getting a value for their money. They are preferring to stay home, or travel domestically.

Everything is passed on to the consumer and I honestly feel that there is insurance offered to the client against default, and purchasing through credit cards is also another protection. As it is now, this proposed bond would only cover the cruise portion, but so much more of their travel, air, transfers, excursions and such would not be protected.

At this time in history, we are faced with travel agencies closing at an alarming rate, and if cruises are priced out of reach, it will be the demise of many more agencies. We are all trying to recover from the problems of the past few years, and to think that by adding this bond to the cruises, the cure of a percieved problem may be the cause of an even bigger problem. I urge you in my strongest voice to reconsider this action.
Sincerely,

Patricia Andreatta, MCC,
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