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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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September 9, 2003

Mr. Bryant L. VanBrakle
Secretary
Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20573

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Dear Commissioners,

It is my understanding that UPS has filed for an exemption from the prohibition on Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers (NVOCCs) from entering into confidential contracts with their customers. Due to the operational characteristics of UPS and recent developments within the ocean shipping marketplace, I am in favor of the UPS petition for exemption currently pending before the FMC.

UPS operates the most sophisticated, integrated, intermodal transportation network in the world, which includes air, rail and surface and NVOCC transportation, and is deemed a "carrier" in the surface and air freight industries. Furthermore, UPS makes significant annual capital investments to its' asset-based transportation infrastructure. These facts alone set UPS apart from the companies that first raised concerns about the regulatory status of NVOCCs.

It is my hope that UPS will be granted the petition for exemption based on the merits of the case presented before you. I thank you for your careful and thoughtful consideration on this matter.

It is an honor to be representing the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. If I may ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

JW/mr

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