



Hon. Omar Alghabra, P.C., MP
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Hon. Mary Ng, P.C., MP
Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

June 7th, 2021

Dear Ministers,

We would like to bring to your attention a very important issue regarding anti-competitive marine carrier behaviour resulting in a shipping container shortage for Canadian exporters.

International shippers have drastically changed their shipping procedures and are now sending their containers back to Asia empty. Previously, shippers would make their containers available to Canadian exporters to use for goods such as grain, hay and forage seed products, feed/feed ingredients and forest products. Now, shippers are taking the empty containers back to Asia instead of waiting for them to be loaded with Canadian goods. This is putting a significant strain on Canadian exporters as they try to bring their goods to market.

Canada is not the only nation experiencing this issue as it is also a significant problem for the United States. In response to this issue, the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) launched an investigation into the matter in March of 2020. The Canadian government must also take immediate action. This is why we are calling on your government to launch an investigation under section 49 of the Canada Transportation Act to look into this anti-competitive marine carrier behaviour.

Canadian shippers depend on a robust marine carrier system to export to other nations. Failure to act on this issue will have a devastating impact on our economy, our competitiveness, and the future of Canadian exporters.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to a rapid response.



Sincerely,

Stephanie Kusie

Stephanie Kusie, MP
Shadow Minister for Transport

Tracy Gray

Tracy Gray, MP
Shadow Minister for Export Promotion and International Trade