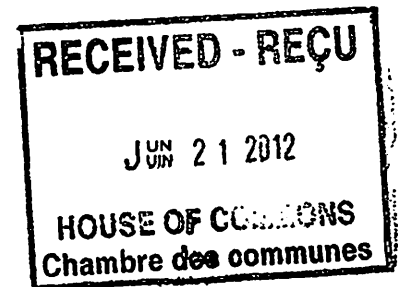




Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

JUN 20 2012



The Honourable Tony Clement, P.C., M.P.
President of the Treasury Board and
Minister for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Colleague:

TONY

Thank you for your correspondence of May 8, 2012, regarding concerns expressed by small vessel operators in your riding of Parry Sound–Muskoka.

Transport Canada is encouraged to see increasing participation from small vessel operators at the Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC). The Department is also pleased to see small commercial vessel operators forming associations, such as the Small Commercial Vessel Association, given that such organizations will assist operators in communicating with Transport Canada through the CMAC process and other forums, as required.

In addition to the mandatory *Canada Gazette* consultation process, the Department conducts consultations for all regulations twice a year at national CMAC meetings and twice a year at CMAC meetings in each of the five regions.

Transport Canada provides tools to assist operators in meeting their regulatory requirements, one of which is the Small Vessel Compliance Program. Following CMAC discussions, Transport Canada will be modifying existing tools to provide additional guidance on and clarify the application of certain regulatory provisions.

In closing, I would encourage small commercial vessel operators to continue to pursue an organized engagement strategy with Transport Canada and to continue to participate in the CMAC at both the national and regional level.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Lebel, P.C., M.P.

Canada