



# NITL NOTICE

THE NATIONAL  
INDUSTRIAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
LEAGUE

*"The Shippers' Voice Since 1907"*

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## **FMC Releases Interim Report on Port Detention and Demurrage Fees**

Developing transparent, standardized language for demurrage and detention practices and simplifying demurrage and detention billing and dispute resolution processes are among six priorities identified by the Federal Maritime Commission in an [interim report](#) released this week.

The report is based on a six-month study conducted by FMC Commissioner Rebecca Dye in the wake of a petition about [unfair port charges](#) filed by NITL and other stakeholders. The petition asked the FMC to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to restrict the ability of steamship lines and marine terminal operators to impose detention and demurrage charges due to circumstances beyond shippers' control.

"Detention and demurrage practices and associated fees are a significant concern for NITL members, and we welcome the release of Commissioner Dye's interim report," stated NITL Executive Director Jennifer Hedrick after the report was released. "We're pleased to see the FMC's commitment toward addressing concerns raised by NITL and members of the Coalition for Fair Port Practices, and look forward to commenting following review and analysis of the report's findings."

## **Registration Opens for 2019 Transportation Summit**

Registration is now open for the [2019 NIT League Transportation Summit](#), to be held January 21-23 in San Antonio.

An e-mail was sent to NITL members yesterday announcing the opening. Members are encouraged to register before Wednesday, Oct. 10, to take advantage of early bird savings.

The Summit will be held at the Hilton Palacio del Rio, along San Antonio's famed River Walk. Information about [registering for the conference](#), [making hotel reservations](#), and [sponsoring activities and events](#) is available on [nitl.org](#), as is a [Summit schedule](#).

## MARITIME

### Rotor Technology to Be Tested on Maersk Tanker

Two 30-meter x 5-meter "rotor sails" have been installed on a Maersk tanker to help [reduce fuel consumption](#) and associated emissions, and the company that built them says it anticipates fuel savings of as much as 10%.

### East Coast Ports Enjoy Cost Advantage on Asian Traffic

A new freight data tool shows that using an East Coast port to move goods from China to St. Louis will [cost nearly \\$600 less](#) than using a West Coast port, though costs are [increasing on both routes](#).

### Gulf Coast Ports Reopening in Wake of Tropical Storm

Ports in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas were [beginning to resume operations](#) this week after Tropical Storm Gordon weakened and moved inland.

### Despite Investments, Traffic on St. Lawrence Seaway is Declining

U.S. agencies have completed almost \$100 million in lock improvement projects on the St. Lawrence Seaway during the past decade, but they have failed to stem a [decline in seaway traffic](#) that began in 1980.

## RAIL

### Rail Traffic Continues Rising in August

U.S. freight railroads showed [continued volume growth](#) in August, with carload gains in 16 of 20 commodities tracked by an industry group.

### Rail Workers' Unions Say Agency is Allowing Mexican Workers to Staff U.S. Freight Trains

Two rail unions are alleging that the Federal Railroad Administration is allowing Mexican crews to [operate freight trains](#) in the United States, in violation of federal law and safety practices.

### More Rail Tank Cars Meet Safety Standards

One-fifth of rail tank cars that transport flammable liquids meet the Department of Transportation's [safety standards](#), up from just 2 percent in 2015.

### CN Increases Recent Order for Locomotives

After ordering 200 new GE locomotives in December, CN has announced that it is [ordering 60 more](#) as part of an overall effort to meet growing demand and improve service reliability.

## HIGHWAY

### Road Builders Say Outdated Regulation Stifles Highway Innovation

A federal regulation dating back to Woodrow Wilson's administration is impeding the [deployment of patented technologies](#) that could improve safety and quality on the nation's major roads, according to congressional testimony from the American Road & Transportation Builders Association.

### Online Survey to Collect Data on Excessive Driver Delays

The American Transportation Research Institute has launched an online initiative to solicit input from commercial drivers on how they are [affected by excessive delays](#) at shipper/receiver facilities.

## TRADE

### **Chemical Manufacturers Put Price, Jobs Tag on China Trade War**

A chemical industry group says trade restrictions imposed on China have [incited retaliatory tariffs](#) on \$11 billion in U.S. chemicals and plastics exports and put nearly 55,000 American jobs and \$18 billion in domestic activity at risk.

## LOGISTICS

### **Penn State Tops Ranks of Supply Chain Graduate Programs**

Pennsylvania State University once again leads Gartner's [rankings of graduate programs](#) in supply chain studies, while Northeastern University showed the biggest improvement, advancing 11 places to #13.

### **Demand Rising for Logistics Professionals, but Supply Proving Elusive**

Growth in e-commerce is putting pressure on the U.S. logistics workforce, but a shrinking skilled workforce and a reluctance to raise wages are [hampering the sector's expansion](#).

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### **Lockbox No Guarantee that Transportation Improvements Will Be Made**

Connecticut voters will have the opportunity in November to approve a "lockbox" amendment to the state's constitution to [safeguard transportation funds](#), but they may well discover what citizens in other states have learned—that such a measure is no guarantee that lawmakers will agree to raise taxes and fees to pay for new transportation projects.