For immediate release:

In a closed session on October 21, 2015, the Federal Maritime Commission determined to move forward to seek comment on its service contract rules to clarify, update, encourage leveraging technology, and provide regulatory relief where possible. The Commission will publish the proposal and request public comment later in the year. Review of the service contract rules was initiated in response to President Obama's call in Executive Order 13563 to conduct a retrospective review of existing regulations.

Commissioner Doyle stated: "While I may not agree with the rule as proposed in the October meeting, I did vote in favor of moving forward with an advanced notice so that the public will have an opportunity to comment. I advise shippers to take notice, and that they fully understand the rule making process in this regard. I anticipate significant input from stakeholders in updating service contract rules."

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