



New Zealand Shippers' Council

1 August 2016

Hon Simon Bridges
Minister of Transport
Parliament Buildings
Private Bag 18041
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister,

NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION

While New Zealand does not own a major international shipping fleet we are still nearly totally dependent upon international shipping for our exports and imports. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is responsible for regulation of this activity.

We are pleased with much of the work done by New Zealand officials at the IMO. On the Verified Gross Mass (Container Weight Verification) issue there were two clear instances of New Zealand leading the world and creating great outcomes for New Zealand business. But we note that the work of the IMO is probably going to become even more important for us in the future.

An example of the new agenda would be the treatment of international shipping in the climate change debate. At present this is being debated under an IMO convention to which New Zealand is not even a party. Yet the implications for New Zealand are arguably greater than for any other IMO member. New Zealand is representing itself at these meetings held in London from Wellington. This means that we are not represented at all the meetings nor are we part of the informal day to day dialogue that goes on around this international organisation. This process is probably just as important as the formal process.

We therefore believe it is time for New Zealand to consider upgrading its investment in the IMO by having a permanent presence at the IMO based out of our High Commission in London. We note that there is a permanent presence at the OECD, WTO and World Customs Organisation. The IMO is possibly more important to New Zealand trade in terms of actual activity and impact and should be treated the same as the other organisations.

Our members consider there should be serious consideration given by Government to an upgrade in our representation. Funding for this could be obtained by reducing the size of other New Zealand missions where there is little activity happening at present.

We would be interesting in your views.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Knowles".

Mike Knowles
Chairman