

Press Advisory

Statement by Joseph Curto
President, New York Shipping Association on the Continued Job Action
In the Port of New York and New Jersey

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

“Sadly, a work stoppage continues in the Port of New York and New Jersey which is affecting all of the major facilities. Vessels cannot be worked and cargo cannot be received or delivered. I am not going to try to explain, and certainly not defend, the strategy of the ILA which is today defying the order of Federal Judge Dickinson R. Debevoise to discontinue honoring the picket lines manned by out of town longshoremen.

I am however upset with the fact that ILA workers in the Port of New York and New Jersey are penalizing ocean carriers and marine terminal operators who have absolutely no involvement or relationship what-so-ever with the issues that may be occurring in the Port of Philadelphia. If the union’s strategy is to gain support and sympathy, it appears that the opposite result is occurring. What we have occurring is a classic example of “biting the hand that feeds you.

This action is causing deep economic harm to many innocent parties. Losses being experienced by the ocean carriers alone who have ships idled in the harbor are totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars a day. Others, including all of our port partners, hundreds of independent truckers, warehouse workers and logistics providers are also suffering unforgiveable losses.

It is very disappointing for the entire port community who has been working so hard to prepare the port for increased future business and to handle our current business efficiently. This labor action will no doubt be a setback – and is giving our port an undeserved black eye. In today’s environment of port to port competition and other significant economic challenges, this job action by the ILA is the wrong message, in the wrong port, at the wrong time.”

New York Shipping Association and its’ attorneys will be returning to US District Court this morning seeking enforcement of the court’s order.

Further information will be forthcoming when received.

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