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VIA FACSIMILE AND E-MAIL

Commodity Procurement Policy & Analysis
Division
Farm Service Agency
U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Room 5755-S
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0512

Attention: Mr. Richard Chavez

Re: Proposed Rule for Procurement of Commodities for Foreign Donation, RIN 0560-AH39, 70 Fed. Reg. 74,717 (Dec. 16, 2005)

Dear Mr. Chavez:

On behalf of TECO Ocean Shipping, Inc. (TECO), we respectfully request a 60-day extension of time from the current deadline of January 17, 2006 to file comments on the above-referenced Proposed Rule.

TECO owns and operates U.S.-flag vessels in the domestic and foreign trades of the United States. When TECO is operating its vessels in the foreign trades, it is primarily transporting cargoes for the Title II, Food for Progress and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition programs. TECO will be affected by the Proposed Rule and believes that the rulemaking raises significant policy issues that could affect the availability of cargoes for its vessels under the cargo preference statutes. Additional requested time will permit TECO to carefully consider the proposed changes and submit substantive comments.

Thank you for your consideration of TECO's request for an additional 60-day extension of time in which to prepare its comments on the Proposed Rule.

Very truly yours,

Gregory B. Mendenhall

Gregory B. Mendenhall
Counsel for TECO Ocean Shipping, Inc.

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