



# NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20427

Thursday, September 20, 2011  
For Immediate Release  
Web site: [www.fmcs.gov](http://www.fmcs.gov)

Contact: John Arnold  
Director of Public Affairs  
Phone: (202) 606-8100

## **Statement by FMCS Director George H. Cohen on United States Maritime Alliance and International Longshoremens' Association Labor Negotiations**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — I am pleased to announce that at the close of today's productive negotiation session, in which progress was made on several important subjects, the parties have agreed to extend the collective bargaining agreement due to expire on September 30, 2012 for a ninety (90) day period, i.e. through December 29, 2012. In taking this significant step, the parties emphasized that they are doing so "for the good of the country" to avoid any interruption in interstate commerce.

This extension will provide the parties an opportunity to focus on the outstanding core issues in a deliberate manner apart from the pressure of an immediate deadline. The negotiations on the Master Agreement will be conducted during the same time frame as negotiations for local agreements. The negotiations will continue under the auspices of the FMCS. Due to the sensitive nature of these high profile negotiations, we will have no further comment on the schedule for the negotiations, their location, or the substance of what takes place during those negotiations.

###

*The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 district offices and 67 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.*