

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:

Thank you for your letter dated April 2, 2013, which highlights the importance of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Reader Requirements Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) and states your concern that the public must have sufficient opportunity to review and comment on the NPRM.

The Coast Guard is committed to ensuring the successful implementation of the TWIC reader program for our nation's port workers and mariners. I share your commitment to ensuring that this rulemaking achieves its goals of advancing maritime security as effectively and efficiently as possible. Public comment is a vital component of this rulemaking. We have completed public meetings in Washington DC, Houston, and Seattle. Our fourth and final public meeting is scheduled for May 9th in Chicago. From the three public meetings already held we have received many helpful comments, and while none of the comments have indicated more time is needed we acknowledge your concerns and will extend the comment period for thirty days.

Your letter and my response will be posted in the rulemaking docket for public record. My House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775 would be pleased to respond to any further questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. J. Papp, Jr.", written over the typed name and title.

R. J. PAPP, JR
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant