

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, and the millions of businesses and employees we represent, we are writing to you once again regarding the ongoing West Coast port labor negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association. The labor contract has now been expired for over eight months. Negotiations have been ongoing for over ten months, with little to no progress towards a new long-term agreement. It is imperative that the administration work with the parties to quickly reach a new agreement and ensure there is no disruption to port operations and cargo fluidity.

We previously shared our concerns on July 1, 2022 when the contract initially expired. At that time we called upon the administration to engage with the parties as well as urged the parties to agree to a contract extension while negotiations continued. We applaud the engagement from former Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh through the negotiations. Now that he has departed the administration it is critical that a new administration point person be named to continue engagement with the parties as they negotiate. With the lack of progress to date, we would also encourage the administration to offer mediation services to the parties in their negotiations.

As we have witnessed, significant cargo flows have shifted away from the West Coast ports because of the uncertainty related to the labor negotiations. While there certainly are other issues impacting the West Coast ports, many cargo interests have expressly stated that they shifted cargo as a result of the negotiations. That cargo will not return to the West Coast until after a contract is final and approved by both parties. The longer there is no ratified contract only increases the probability that some portion of the freight will never return to the West Coast ports.

Businesses have already made their shipping decisions for the all-important peak shipping season, which will begin this summer. Even though cargo volumes have dropped, we continue to experience supply chain stress and challenges. While many continue to recover from pandemic related issues, the ongoing stress of inflation and economic uncertainty continues to impact supply chain stakeholders as well.

The lack of a labor contract adds to this uncertainty. While we appreciate that the parties agreed not to engage in a strike or a lockout, we are aware of several instances of activities that have impacted terminal operations. We need the administration to ensure these activities do not continue or escalate.

We know that significant issues remain for both parties to resolve. However, the only way to resolve these issues is for the parties to remain at the bargaining table and actually negotiate. We encourage the administration to provide any and all support to the parties in their negotiations to reach a final agreement.

As we have said previously, the only way the parties can reach an agreement that will ensure the continued competitiveness of the ports and the supply chain stakeholders who rely upon them is to remain at the table until a new agreement is finalized. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition - AgTC
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration
Institute
Airforwarders Association
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Almond Alliance
Amcot
American Apparel & Footwear Association
(AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and
Importers
American Bakers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Clean Power Association
American Composites Manufacturers
Association
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Down and Feather Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Herbal Products Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American International Automobile Dealers
Association
American Lighting Association
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Spice Trade Association
American Trucking Associations
Arizona Retailers Association

Arizona Trucking Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of American Railroads
Association of Food Industries
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Auto Care Association
Autos Drive America
Bay Area Council
Beer Institute
California Alfalfa and Forage Association
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Bean Shippers Association
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
California Grain and Feed Association
California Hotel + Lodging Association
California Retailers Association
California Rice Commission
California Seed Association
California State Floral Association
California Trucking Association
California Warehouse Association
Can Manufacturers Institute
Cascade Shippers Association
CAWA - Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade
Colorado Motor Carriers Association
Columbia River Customs Brokers & Forwarders
Association

Computing Technology Industry Association
 (CompTIA)
 Consumer Brands Association
 Consumer Technology Association
 Corn Refiners Association
 Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
 Council for Responsible Nutrition
 Council of Fashion Designers of America
 (CFDA)
 Council of Supply Chain Management
 Professionals
 CPMA
 Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of
 Northern California
 Customs Brokers & International Freight
 Forwarders Association of Washington
 State
 Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.
 Fashion Accessories Shippers Association, Inc.
 Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade
 Association
 Florida Trucking Association
 FMI - The Food Industry Association
 Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America
 (FDRA)
 Foreign Trade Association
 Forest Resources Association
 Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
 Gemini Shippers Association
 Georgia Motor Trucking Association
 Glass Packaging Institute
 Global Cold Chain Alliance
 Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
 Greenabl Shippers Association
 Halloween & Costume Association
 Harbor Trucking Association
 Hawaii Transportation Association
 Home Fashion Products Association
 Household & Commercial Products
 Association
 ICSC
 Idaho Retailers Association
 Illinois Retail Merchants Association
 Independent Electrical Contractors
 Indiana Motor Truck Association
 Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
 Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
 International Casual Furnishings Association
 International Dairy Foods Association
 International Foodservice Distributors Association
 International Franchise Association
 International Fresh Produce Association
 International Housewares Association
 International Warehouse Logistics Association
 Iowa Motor Truck Association
 ISSA, The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
 Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
 Kansas Chamber
 Kansas Motor Carriers Association
 Kansas Retail Council
 Kentucky Retail Federation
 Littler Workplace Policy Institute
 Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
 Los Angeles County Business Federation
 Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders
 Association
 Louisiana Retailers Association
 Maryland Retailers Association
 MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association
 Michigan Retailers Association
 Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
 Minnesota Retailers Association
 Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
 Mississippi Trucking Association
 Missouri Retailers Association
 Montana Retail Association
 Motorcycle Industry Council
 NAIOP Inland Empire Chapter
 NAIOP of California
 NAIOP SoCal
 National Association of Beverage Importers
 National Association of Chemical Distributors
 National Association of Manufacturers
 National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
 National Confectioners Association
 National Corn Growers Association
 National Cotton Council
 National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
 National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
 of America
 National Electrical Manufacturers Association
 National Federation of Independent Business

National Fisheries Institute	Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
National Hay Association	Railway Supply Institute
National Industrial Transportation League	Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association	Renewable Fuels Association
National Milk Producers Federation	Retail Association of Nevada
National Pork Producers Council	Retail Council of New York State
National Potato Council	Retail Industry Leaders Association
National Restaurant Association	Retail Merchants of Hawaii
National Retail Federation	Retailers Association of Massachusetts
National Sorghum Producers	Rhode Island Trucking Association, Inc.
National Sporting Goods Association	RV Industry Association
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association	San Diego Customs Brokers Association
Natural Products Association	San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Nebraska Retail Federation	SNAC International
Nebraska Trucking Association	Snowsports Industry America
New Hampshire Motor Truck Association	Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association	South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
New Mexico trucking Association	South Dakota Soybean Association
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association Inc.	Southern California Leadership Council
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)	Specialty Crop Trade Council
North American Home Furnishings Association	Specialty Equipment Market Association
North American Meat Institute	Specialty Soya & Grains Alliance
North American Renderers Association	Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association	Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
North Dakota Grain Growers Association	Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute
Northwest Horticultural Council	Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants	The Fertilizer Institute
Orange County Business Council	The Game Manufacturers Association
Oregon Retail Council	The Hardwood Federation
Oregon Trucking Association	The Nevada Trucking Association
Outdoor Industry Association	The Sulphur Institute
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute	The Toy Association
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assns. - PCC	Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)
Pacific Coast Renderers Association	Travel Goods Association (TGA)
Pacific Seed Association	U.S. Apple Association
Pennsylvania Retailers AssociationPlant California Alliance	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Plumbing Manufacturers International	U.S. Dairy Export Council
Portland Cement Association	U.S. Fashion Industry Association
PRINTING United Alliance	U.S. Forage Export Council
	U.S. Meat Export Federation
	United States Council for International Business
	USA Rice
	Utah Retail Merchants Association
	Vermont Truck & Bus Association
	Virginia Retail Federation

Washington Retail Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Washington Trucking Associations
West Virginia Retailers Association

Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Growers
Window & Door Manufacturers Association
Wine and Spirits Shippers Association, Inc.
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association

CC: The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation
The Honorable Julie Su, Acting Secretary, Department of Labor
The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary, Department of Commerce
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Lael Brainard, Director, National Economic Council
General Stephen Lyons, Supply Chain and Ports Envoy
Mr. Willie Adams, President, International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Mr. James McKenna, Chairman and CEO, Pacific Merchants Association