

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)	Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
Consumer Brands Association	International Casual Furnishings Association
Consumer Technology Association	International Dairy Foods Association
Corn Refiners Association	International Foodservice Distributors Association
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association	International Franchise Association
Council for Responsible Nutrition	International Fresh Produce Association
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)	International Housewares Association
Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals	International Warehouse Logistics Association
CPMA	Iowa Motor Truck Association
Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of Northern California	ISSA, The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State	Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.	Kansas Chamber
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association, Inc.	Kansas Motor Carriers Association
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association	Kansas Retail Council
Florida Trucking Association	Kentucky Retail Federation
FMI - The Food Industry Association	Littler Workplace Policy Institute
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)	Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Foreign Trade Association	Los Angeles County Business Federation
Forest Resources Association	Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas	Louisiana Retailers Association
Gemini Shippers Association	Maryland Retailers Association
Georgia Motor Trucking Association	MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association
Glass Packaging Institute	Michigan Retailers Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance	Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois	Minnesota Retailers Association
Greenabl Shippers Association	Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Halloween & Costume Association	Mississippi Trucking Association
Harbor Trucking Association	Missouri Retailers Association
Hawaii Transportation Association	Montana Retail Association
Home Fashion Products Association	Motorcycle Industry Council
Household & Commercial Products Association	NAIOP Inland Empire Chapter
ICSC	NAIOP of California
Idaho Retailers Association	NAIOP SoCal
Illinois Retail Merchants Association	National Association of Beverage Importers
Independent Electrical Contractors	National Association of Chemical Distributors
Indiana Motor Truck Association	National Association of Manufacturers
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.	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
 National Hay Association
 National Industrial Transportation League
 National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
 National Milk Producers Federation
 National Pork Producers Council
 National Potato Council
 National Restaurant Association
 National Retail Federation
 National Sorghum Producers
 National Sporting Goods Association
 National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
 Natural Products Association
 Nebraska Retail Federation
 Nebraska Trucking Association
 New Hampshire Motor Truck Association
 New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
 New Mexico trucking Association
 New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association Inc.
 North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
 North American Home Furnishings Association
 North American Meat Institute
 North American Renderers Association
 North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
 North Dakota Grain Growers Association
 Northwest Horticultural Council
 Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
 Orange County Business Council
 Oregon Retail Council
 Oregon Trucking Association
 Outdoor Industry Association
 Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
 Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assns. - PCC
 Pacific Coast Renderers Association
 Pacific Seed Association
 Pennsylvania Retailers Association
 Plant California Alliance
 Plumbing Manufacturers International
 Portland Cement Association
 PRINTING United Alliance

Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
 Railway Supply Institute
 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)
 Renewable Fuels Association
 Retail Association of Nevada
 Retail Council of New York State
 Retail Industry Leaders Association
 Retail Merchants of Hawaii
 Retailers Association of Massachusetts
 Rhode Island Trucking Association, Inc.
 RV Industry Association
 San Diego Customs Brokers Association
 San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
 SNAC International
 Snowsports Industry America
 Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)
 South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
 South Dakota Soybean Association
 Southern California Leadership Council
 Specialty Crop Trade Council
 Specialty Equipment Market Association
 Specialty Soya & Grains Alliance
 Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)
 Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
 Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute
 Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
 The Fertilizer Institute
 The Game Manufacturers Association
 The Hardwood Federation
 The Nevada Trucking Association
 The Sulphur Institute
 The Toy Association
 Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)
 Travel Goods Association (TGA)
 U.S. Apple Association
 U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 U.S. Dairy Export Council
 U.S. Fashion Industry Association
 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