

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