

July 1, 2022

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 regarding the ongoing West Coast port labor negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association. With the contract set to expire today, we urge the administration to continue to work with the parties to reach a new agreement without any disruption to port operations.

Thank you for recently meeting with the parties to discuss these negotiations. We appreciate the June 14<sup>th</sup> joint statement as a result of that meeting. In that statement, the parties state that cargo operations will continue beyond the contract expiration and that neither party is preparing for a strike or a lockout. However, we believe an immediate extension of the current contract is just as important and will provide assurance to the millions of businesses, workers and consumers who rely on the West Coast ports.

We know that there are significant issues for both parties that need to be worked out during this contract negotiation. The only way to resolve these issues is for the parties to remain at the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith. Extending the current contract will provide additional certainty to all of the supply chain stakeholders that rely on the U.S. West Coast ports. This is even more important as we continue to experience supply chain disruptions and congestion for a variety of reasons.

As we enter the all-important peak shipping season, we continue to expect cargo flows to remain at all-time highs, putting further stress on the supply chain and increasing inflation. Many expect these challenges to continue through the rest of the year. Even with the recent joint statement, supply chain stakeholders remain concerned about the potential for disruption, especially without a contract or an extension in place. Unfortunately, this concern stems from a long history of disruptions during previous negotiations.

We know the administration understands the economic significance of these negotiations. As such, we encourage the administration to provide any and all support to the parties to reach a final conclusion of their negotiations.

In particular, while the parties seek to reach a final agreement, the administration should work with the parties to:

- 1) Extend the current contract until a final contract is reached;
- 2) Commit to remain at the negotiating table and negotiate in good faith; and
- 3) Agree to not engage in any kind of activity that leads to further disruption at the ports.

The only way the parties can reach an agreement that will ensure the continued competitiveness of the ports and those 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,

1. Agricultural Retailers Association
2. Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
3. Amcot
4. American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
5. American Composites Manufacturers Association
6. American Cotton Producers
7. American Cotton Shippers Association
8. American Down and Feather Council
9. American Farm Bureau Federation
10. American Herbal Products Association
11. American Home Furnishings Alliance
12. American Lighting Association
13. American Seed Trade Association
14. American Trucking Associations
15. Associated Builders and Contractors
16. Association of Equipment Manufacturers
17. Association of Food Industries
18. Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM)
19. Auto Care Association
20. Beer Institute
21. California Business Properties Association
22. California Chamber of Commerce
23. California Retailers Association
24. California Trucking Association
25. Can Manufacturers Institute
26. CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
27. Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
28. Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
29. Consumer Technology Association
30. Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
31. Cotton Warehouse Association of America
32. Customs Brokers Freight Forwarders Assn of Northern California
33. Customs Brokers and Intl Forwarders Assn of Washington State
34. Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
35. Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association
36. FMI – The Food Industry Association
37. Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
38. Gemini Shippers Association
39. Global Cold Chain Alliance
40. Green Coffee Association
41. Halloween & Costume Association
42. Harbor Trucking Association
43. Hardwood Federation

44. Home Fashion Products Association
45. Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
46. Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
47. International Casual Furnishings Association
48. International Fresh Produce Association
49. International Housewares Association
50. International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)
51. ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
52. Juvenile Product Manufacturers Association
53. Leather & Hide Council of America
54. Littler Workplace Policy Institute
55. Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
56. Meat Import Council of America
57. National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)
58. National Association of Manufacturers
59. National Association of Wholesalers
60. National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
61. National Cotton Council
62. National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
63. National Fisheries Institute
64. National Milk Producers Federation
65. National Oilseed Processors Association
66. National Pork Producers Council
67. National Potato Council
68. National Retail Federation
69. Natural Products Association
70. New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders & Brokers Association
71. North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
72. North American Home Furnishings Association
73. North American Meat Institute
74. Northwest Horticultural Council
75. Oregon Business & Industry
76. Oregon Retail Council
77. Outdoor Industry Association
78. Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn. (PCC)
79. Pet Advocacy Network
80. Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.
81. Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI)
82. Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
83. Retail Association of Nevada
84. San Diego Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn.
85. SNAC International
86. Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
87. Specialty Equipment Market Association
88. Tea Association of the U.S.A.
89. Toy Association
90. Travel Goods Association (TGA)
91. U.S. Apple Association
92. U.S. Dairy Export Council

93. United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)
94. Washington Retail Association
95. Washington State Potato Commission
96. Washington State Tree Fruit Association
97. Washington Trucking Associations
98. Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America
99. Wine Institute

CC: Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Department of Transportation  
Secretary Marty Walsh, Department of Labor  
Secretary Gina Raimondo, Department of Commerce

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