

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 14th 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 would 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,

Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Agricultural Retailers Association
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration
Institute
Alabama Cotton Commission
Amcot
American Apparel & Footwear Association
(AAFA)
American Chemistry Council
American Clean Power Association
American Composites Manufacturers
Association
American Cotton Producers
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Down and Feather Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Herbal Products Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Lighting Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Trucking Associations
Arkansas Cotton Warehouse Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Food Industries
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
(AHAM)
Auto Care Association
Autos Drive America
Beer Institute
Building Service Contractors Association
International (BSCAI)
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Cotton Ginners & Growers
Association
California Farm Bureau
California Retailers Association
California Rice Commission
California Trucking Association

Can Manufacturers Institute
CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts
Industry
Coalition of New England Companies for
Trade (CONNECT)
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
Columbia River Customs Brokers and
Forwarders Assn.
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
Cotton Warehouse Association of America
Cottonseed and Feed Association
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
Customs Brokers Freight Forwarders Assn of
Northern California
Customs Brokers and International Freight Forwarders
Association of Washington State (CBIFFAWS)
Delta Council
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association
Florida Cotton Producers Association
Florida Farm Bureau
FMI – The Food Industry Association
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Foreign Trade Association
Gemini Shippers Association
Georgia Cotton Commission
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Green Coffee Association
Halloween & Costume Association
Harbor Trucking Association
Hardwood Federation
Home Fashion Products Association
Idaho Potato Commission
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
International Casual Furnishings Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Fresh Produce Association
International Housewares Association

International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)	Northwest Horticultural Council
ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association	Oklahoma Cotton Council
Juvenile Product Manufacturers Association	Oregon Business & Industry
Kansas Cotton Association	Oregon Retail Council
Leather & Hide Council of America	Outdoor Industry Association
Littler Workplace Policy Institute	Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association	Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn. (PCC)
Maine Potato Board	Pet Advocacy Network
Meat Import Council of America	Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation	Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)	Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI)
Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC)	Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)	Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)
National Association of Manufacturers	Retail Association of Nevada
National Association of Wholesalers	Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
National Confectioners Association	Rolling Plains Cotton Growers
National Cotton Council	San Diego Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn.
National Cottonseed Products Association	San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives	SNAC International
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)	Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
National Fisheries Institute	South Texas Cotton and Grain Association
National Industrial Transportation League (NITL)	Southern Cotton Growers
National Marine Manufacturers Association	Southern Kansas Cotton Growers Cooperative
National Milk Producers Federation	Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers
National Oilseed Processors Association	Southwest Council of Agribusiness
National Sporting Goods Association	Specialty Equipment Market Association
National Pork Producers Council	Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)
National Potato Council	Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
National Retail Federation	St. Lawrence Cotton Growers
National Sorghum Producers	Tea Association of the U.S.A.
Natural Products Association	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders & Brokers Association	Toy Association
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)	Travel Goods Association (TGA)
North American Home Furnishings Association	United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)
North American Meat Institute	U.S. Apple Association
North Carolina Cotton Producers	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
	U.S. Dairy Export Council
	USA Rice
	Vinyl Institute
	Washington Retail Association
	Washington State Potato Commission
	Washington State Tree Fruit Association
	Washington Trucking Associations

Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Peanut Growers Association
Window & Door Manufacturers Association

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America
Wine Institute

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