

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	Can Manufacturers Institute
Agricultural Retailers Association	CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute	Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
Alabama Cotton Commission	Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
Amcot	Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)	Consumer Brands Association
American Chemistry Council	Consumer Technology Association
American Clean Power Association	Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association	Cotton Warehouse Association of America
American Cotton Producers	Cottonseed and Feed Association
American Cotton Shippers Association	Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
American Down and Feather Council	Customs Brokers Freight Forwarders Assn of Northern California
American Farm Bureau Federation	Customs Brokers and International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State (CBIFFAWS)
American Forest & Paper Association	Delta Council
American Foundry Society	Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
American Herbal Products Association	Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance	Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association
American Lighting Association	Florida Cotton Producers Association
American Seed Trade Association	Florida Farm Bureau
American Trucking Associations	FMI – The Food Industry Association
Arkansas Cotton Warehouse Association	Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Associated Builders and Contractors	Foreign Trade Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers	Gemini Shippers Association
Association of Food Industries	Georgia Cotton Commission
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM)	Global Cold Chain Alliance
Auto Care Association	Green Coffee Association
Autos Drive America	Halloween & Costume Association
Beer Institute	Harbor Trucking Association
Building Service Contractors Association International (BSCAI)	Hardwood Federation
California Business Properties Association	Home Fashion Products Association
California Chamber of Commerce	Idaho Potato Commission
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association	Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
California Farm Bureau	Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
California Retailers Association	International Casual Furnishings Association
California Rice Commission	International Foodservice Distributors Association
California Trucking 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