

October 2, 2024

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 representing American manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, importers, exporters, distributors, transportation and logistics providers, and other supply chain stakeholders, we are calling upon you and the administration to immediately use your authorities to end the strike which has shut down all East Coast and Gulf Coast container ports. Given the dire situation and the massive negative ramifications for our industries and the economy, we implore you to take immediate action to resolve this situation expeditiously.

This has now become an issue of both economic and national security. The strike will cost the economy billions of dollars a day, impacting businesses large and small that are not party to the negotiations, but rely upon the free flow of goods, both imports and exports, through these critical ports. These port closures mean that our farmers are not able to sell their crops to overseas markets, manufacturers are not able to receive critical components for manufacturing facilities, retailers won't be able to get their holiday merchandise in time and many other industries will be negatively impacted. The longer a strike occurs, the more severe the economic impact and the longer it will take to recover.

While we would have all preferred for the collective bargaining process to have worked and the parties to have negotiated and reached a deal, that was not the case. The administration must now step in to not only get the ports open again but work with the parties to resolve the outstanding contract issues. The only way the parties can agree on a new deal is if they return to the negotiating table with the help of a federal mediator to ensure they bargain in good faith.

Now is the time for leadership to resolve this issue. Thank you for your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

AdvaMed
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition - AgTC
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration
Institute
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
Amcot

American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)
American Automotive Policy Council
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 Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Frozen Foods Institute
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American International Automobile Dealers Association
American Lighting Association
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association
American Soybean Association
American Spice Trade Association
American Sweet Potato Marketing Institute
AmericanHort
Animal Health Institute
Arizona Retailers Association
Arkansas Retailers
Arkansas Soybean Association
Associated Builders & Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of American Railroads
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of Food Industries
Auto Care Association
Autos Drive America
Baltimore Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
Beer Institute
Boston Custom Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Citrus Mutual
California Retailers Association
California Walnut Commission
Can Manufacturers Institute
CHS Warehouse & Logistics LLC
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association
Columbia River Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
Council for Responsible Nutrition

Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP)
Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of Northern California
Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State
Detroit Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.
East Harris County Manufacturers Association
Economic Alliance Houston Port Region
Florida Retail Federation
Florida Trucking Association
FMI - The Food Industry Association
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Foreign Trade Association of Southern California
Gemini Shippers Association
Georgia Motor Trucking Association, Inc.
Georgia Retailers
Georgia/Florida Soybean Association
Glass Packaging Institute
Global Business Alliance
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Green Coffee Association
Greenabl Shippers Association
Growth Energy
Halloween & Costume Association
Harbor Trucking Association
Hardwood Federation
Health Industry Distributors Association
Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International
Home Fashion Products Association
Household & Commercial Products Association
Houston Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
ICSC
Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Independent Electrical Contractors
Independent Freight Forwarders & Customs Association of Savannah, Inc.
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Retail Council
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Information Technology Industry Council

Inter'l Freight Forwarders and Customs	National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Brokers Association New Orleans	National Chicken Council
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference	National Christmas Tree Association
International Association of Movers	National Coffee Association, USA
International Dairy Foods Association	National Confectioners Association
International Foodservice Distributors	National Corn Growers Association
Association	National Cotton Council
International Franchise Association	National Council of Chain Restaurants
International Fresh Produce Association	National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
International Housewares Association	National Customs Brokers and Forwarders
International Housewares Shippers Association	Association of America (NCBFAA)
International Shippers Association	National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
International Warehouse Logistics Association	National Fastener Distributors Association
(IWLA)	National Fisheries Institute
International Wood Products Association	National Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association	National Industrial Transportation League
Kansas Grain and Feed Association	National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
Kansas Soybean Association	National Marine Manufacturers Association
Kentucky Retail Federation	National Milk Producers Federation
Kentucky Soybean Association	National Mining Association
Leather and Hide Council of America	National Oilseed Processors Association
Licensing International	National Peach Council
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight	National Pork Producers Council
Forwarders Association	National Potato Council
Louisiana Retailers Association	National Restaurant Association
Maryland Retailers Alliance	National Retail Federation
Meat Import Council of America	National Roofing Contractors Association
Meat Institute	National Sorghum Producers
MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association	National Turkey Federation
Michigan Agri-Business Association	National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
Michigan Bean Commission	Natural Products Association
Michigan Bean Shippers	NC Agribusiness Council
Michigan Retailers Association	NCBFAA Shippers Association
Michigan Soybean Association	Nebraska Soybean Association
Mid-Valley Customs Brokers Association	Nevada Trucking Association
Midwest Dry Bean Coalition	New Hampshire Retail Association
Missouri Retailers Association	New Jersey Motor Truck Association
Missouri Soybean Association	New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
Montana Equipment Dealers Association	New York New Jersey Foreign Freight
Montana Restaurant Association	Forwarders & Brokers Association Inc.
Montana Retail Association	North American Association of Food Equipment
Montana Tire Dealers	Manufacturers (NAFEM)
Motorcycle Industry Council	North American Home Furnishings Association
National Association of Beverage Importers	North American Renderers Association
National Association of Egg Farmers	North American Shippers Association
National Association of Manufacturers	North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
National Association of Wheat Growers	North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors	

North Texas Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assoc	Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
Northarvest Bean Growers Association	Tennessee Retail Association
Northern Border Customs Brokers Association (NBCBA)	Texas International Produce Association
Ohio AgriBusiness Association	Texas Pork Producers Association
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants	Texas Poultry Federation
Ohio Soybean Association	Texas Retailers Association
Ohio Trucking Association	Texas Sorghum Producers
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute	The American Bakers Association
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assns. Inc.	The Business Council of New York State
Pennsylvania Retailers Association	The Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
Performance Racing Industry (PRI)	The Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association
Personal Care Products Council	The Fertilizer Institute
Pet Food Institute	The Game Manufacturers Association
Plumbing Manufacturers International	The Toy Association
Portland Cement Association	Toy Shippers Association
PRINTING United Alliance	Transportation Intermediaries Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association	Travel Goods Association (TGA)
Recycled Materials Association (ReMA)	Trucking Association of New York
Retail Association of Maine	U.S. Apple Association
Retail Council of New York State	U.S. Dairy Export Council
Retail Industry Leaders Association	U.S. Fashion Industry Association
Retailers Association of Massachusetts	U.S. Grains Council
Rhode Island Trucking Association	U.S. Meat Export Federation
Rocky Mountain Bean Dealers	U.S. Sweet Potato Council
RV Industry Association	United States Council for International Business (USCIB)
San Diego Customs Brokers Association	US Dry Bean Council
Shippers Coalition	US Rice Producers Association
SNAC International	USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)	USA Rice
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce	Utah Food Industry Association
South Carolina Retail Association	Utah Retail Merchants Association
South Carolina Trucking	Vinyl Institute
South Dakota Soybean Association	Virginia Agribusiness Council
Soy Transportation Coalition	Virginia Grain Producers Association
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)	Virginia Retail Federation
Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance	Virginia Soybean Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America	Virginia Trucking Association
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)	West Texas New Mexico Customs Brokers Association
Sweetener Users Association	West Virginia Retailers Association
Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute	Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America
	Wine Institute
	Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
	Wisconsin Soybean Association
	World Trade Center New Orleans

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation
The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary, Department of Commerce
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Lael Brainard, Director, National Economic Council
Members of Congress