

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

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