

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