

June 17, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Louis Sola
Chairman
Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20573

Dear Secretary Duffy, Secretary Lutnick and Chairman Sola,

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations representing U.S. importers, exporters, transportation providers and other supply chain stakeholders, we are writing to urge the administration to engage with all supply chain stakeholders to address concerns about anticipated port congestion and supply chain disruption that will soon impact U.S. competitiveness. There is great concern among stakeholders that the tariff implementation changes, especially with China, will recreate the supply chain challenges we faced during the pandemic with severe port congestion, inaccessible vessel capacity and containers, higher freight rates, and shipment delays. We respectfully urge the administration to reconstitute the White House Supply Chain Disruption Task Force to address these issues proactively and as soon as possible.

While we appreciate the goal of trying to negotiate better deals for the U.S. economy, the use of tariffs is having some unintended consequences for U.S. importers, exporters and related industries, including the logistics network across the country. With the initial imposition of the 145% tariffs on China, many companies either paused or cancelled their orders for imports to the United States. The immediate impact was a sudden decline in vessel traffic to the United States from China, which caused ocean liner carriers to reduce capacity by either pulling vessels out of the market or engaging in blank sailings in the U.S. trades, and set off layoffs and turmoil throughout multi-modal logistics industry.

With the welcomed de-escalation with China and a 90-day pause on the application of reciprocal tariffs over the 10% “base” level, many companies, both large and small, are now resuming movement of those previously paused or cancelled orders while negotiations continue between the countries. This rush to move cargo is being met with a shortage of empty shipping containers at origin and limited vessel capacity as carriers rework their vessel deployment to accommodate the spike in cargo. Further, we are starting to see congestion at foreign ports and significant increases in ocean freight rates and charges, like what many companies experienced

during the pandemic a few years ago. We have already seen several press articles (¹, ², ³) noting the increased freight rates, which are now adding additional costs for businesses.

In preparing for a potential surge of cargo from Asia, especially to our West Coast ports, the U.S. landside transportation infrastructure and service providers also must be prepared for increased activity. The administration is requested to engage our ports, terminal operators, truckers, railroads, warehouses and labor to ensure readiness to support the seamless flow of cargo through the ports as it begins to arrive. We cannot afford to see a repeat of the congestion and resulting cargo velocity issues that plagued U.S. supply chains during the pandemic.

We also encourage the administration to work with ocean carriers, ports, terminal operators, rail carriers, and trucking companies to ensure they are able to meet the demands of U.S. importers and exporters especially as congestion issues start to arise in overseas markets and freight rates are increasing as well. The organizations below respectfully ask the administration to take action to mitigate the risk of severe supply chain disruptions and minimize adverse impacts on the global competitiveness of U.S. exporters and importers.

We stand ready to assist the administration in these efforts and thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council
ACT | The App Association
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration
Institute
Airforwarders Association
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
American Apparel & Footwear Association
(AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and
Importers
American Automotive Policy Council
American Bakers Association
American Cement Association
American Chemistry Council
American Christmas Tree Association
American Composites Manufacturers
Association
American Cotton Shippers Association

American Down and Feather Council
American Frozen Food Institute
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Logistics Association
American Pet Products Association
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)
American Soybean Association
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association (ASTRA)
American Spice Trade Association
AmericanHort
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Food Industries
Auto Care Association
Boston Custom Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
California Building Industry Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Retailers Association
California Walnut Commission
California Wheat Commission
Can Manufacturers Institute

¹ [Shipping Rates Rise as U.S.-China Trade Truce Drives Import Surge](#), WSJ (5/15/25)

² [Trump China trade deal: Tariff pause means new surge in freight shipments, and higher prices](#), CNBC (5/12/25)

³ [‘Fear and uncertainty’ driving up China-US container rates](#), American Shipper (6/4)

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| CAWA - Representing the Automotive Parts Industry | Greenabl Shippers Association |
| CCBFA - Chicago Customs Broker Forwarder Association | Halloween & Costume Association |
| Coalition of New England Companies for Trade | Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) |
| Coalition of Services Industries | Home Fashion Products Association |
| Color Pigments Manufacturers Association | Household & Commercial Products Association |
| Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association | Houston Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association |
| Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association | ICSC |
| Connected Health Initiative | Idaho Grain Producers Association |
| Connecticut Retail Network | IL Soybean Growers |
| Consumer Technology Association (CTA) | Illinois Retail Merchants Association |
| Corn Refiners Association | Independent Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of Savannah |
| Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) | Institute of Makers of Explosives |
| Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP) | Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference |
| Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State | International Association of Exhibitions and Events |
| Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California | International Association of Movers |
| Detroit Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association | International Association of Venue Managers |
| Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. | International Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of New Orleans |
| Edible Oil Producers Association | International Fresh Produce Association |
| Entertainment Software Association | International Housewares Association |
| Exhibition Services & Contractors Association | International Housewares Shippers Association (IHSA) |
| Exhibitions & Conferences Alliance | International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA) |
| Experiential Designers & Producers Association (EDPA) | International Wood Products Association |
| Fashion Accessories Shippers Association | Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association |
| Florida Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association | Kansas Chamber |
| FMI - the Food Industry Association | Kansas Retail Federation |
| Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA) | Kansas Soybean Association |
| Fresh Produce Association of the Americas | Kentucky Retail Federation |
| Game Manufacturers Association | Kentucky Soybean Association |
| Gemini Shippers Association | Leather and Hide Council of America |
| Georgia Retailers | Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association |
| Global Business Alliance | Louisiana Maritime International Chamber of Commerce |
| Global Cold Chain Alliance | Louisiana Retailers Association |
| | Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association |
| | Maryland Retailers Alliance |
| | Meat Import Council of America (MICA) |
| | MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association |
| | Michigan Retailers Association |
| | Midwest Dry Bean Coalition |
| | Minnesota Soybean Growers Association |
| | Missouri Retailers Association |
| | Montana Grain Growers Association |

Motorcycle Industry Council
National Animal Supplement Council
National Association of Beverage Importers
(NABI)
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
(NACDS)
National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones
(NAFTZ)
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Music Merchants
National Association of Waterfront Employers
(NAWE)
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Association of Wholesaler-
Distributors
National Confectioners Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders
Association of America (NCBFAA)
National Fisheries Institute
National Foreign Trade Council
National Industrial Transportation League
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers
Association
National Milk Producer Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Sporting Goods Association
National Turkey Federation
National Wooden Pallet & Container
Association
NC AgriBusiness Council
NCBFAA Shippers Association
Nebraska Hospitality Association
Nebraska Retail Federation
New Hampshire Retail Association
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight
Forwarders and Brokers Association Inc.
North American Association of Food
Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
North American Formal Apparel Association
North American Millers' Association
North American Renderers Association

North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission
North Texas Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders
Association
Northarvest Bean Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance, Inc.
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Soybean Association
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Outdoor Power Parts and Accessories Association (OPPAA)
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and
Freight Forwarders Association Inc. (PCC)
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association (PTNPA)
Penn York lumberman's
Pennsylvania Retailers Association
Performance Racing Industry (PRI)
Personal Care Products Council
Pet Advocacy Network
Pet Food Institute
Pet Industry Distributors Association
Philadelphia Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
Plumbing Manufacturers International
PRINTING United Alliance
Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Recycled Materials Association
Retail Association of Maine
Retail Council of New York State
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Retail Merchants of Hawaii
Retailers Association of Massachusetts
San Diego Customs Brokers Association
SEMI
Snowsports Industry America
Society of Independent Show Organizers, SISO
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Soybean Association
Southern California Leadership Council
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)
Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute
Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
TechNet

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| Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA) | UFI - The Global Association for the Exhibitions Industry |
| Texas International Produce Association | United States Council for International Business |
| The American Waterways Operators | Utah Food Industry Association |
| The Baltimore Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association | Utah Retail Merchants Association |
| The Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association | Virginia Retail Federation |
| The Fertilizer Institute | Washington Association of Wheat Growers |
| The Hardwood Federation | Washington Retail Association |
| The Sulphur Institute | Washington State Potato Commission |
| The Toy Association | Washington Trucking Associations |
| Toy Shippers Association | Water Quality Association |
| Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA) | West Virginia Forestry Association |
| Travel Goods Association (TGA) | West Virginia Retailers Association |
| U S Sweet Potato Council | Window and door manufacturers association |
| U.S. Apple Association | Wine Institute |
| U.S. Chamber of Commerce | Wisconsin Soybean Association |
| U.S. Dairy Export Council | Women in Toys, Licensing & Entertainment |
| U.S. Fashion Industry Association | |
| U.S. Meat Export Federation | |