The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned associations representing United States manufacturers, farmers, wholesalers, retailers, and transportation and logistics providers are writing to express our deep concern about the labor situation in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California. We urge the Administration to quickly engage in the dispute to end the work stoppage at the ports and help the parties in their negotiations.

On November 27, 2012, the Marine Clerk Office Clerical Unit Local 63 (OCU), a unit of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) representing approximately 600 workers, broke off contract negotiations with fourteen marine terminal employers in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California. The OCU set up picket lines at 10 of the 14 terminals operating at the two ports. Other ILWU units not party to the negotiations have refused to cross these pickets, effectively shutting down the nation's largest port complex.

In the past six days, ocean carriers have begun to divert cargo to Mexico and Canada because there is great concern that diverting cargo to other U.S. ports would only widen the labor actions. Meanwhile, ships are beginning to back up in the harbor and port terminal operators are running out of room to store empty containers and other intermodal equipment. Even if labor returned to work today, it would take several weeks to undo the gridlock this disruption has already set in motion.

If this situation is not quickly remedied, far more dire consequences will result, including:

- Manufacturers requiring parts for their production lines may have to suspend operations;
- Exporters will fail to meet delivery times for their customers in the Far East;
- Exporters of perishable cargos have already been affected;
- Agricultural interests will have to divert production to domestic use, or freeze produce instead of shipping it fresh, thereby losing significant economic value;
- Retailers will be unable to get goods to their store shelves in a timely fashion; and,
- Importers, wholesalers, and U.S. consumer brands will face order cancellations if they cannot meet delivery dates.

While this labor dispute has affected fewer ports than the coast-wide lockout of 2002, the Los Angeles and Long Beach port facilities are the nation's busiest and critical for many exporters and importers doing business in the Pacific Rim. The 2002 labor dispute, which lasted for 10 days, cost the US economy \$1 billion a day.

We recognize the difficulties of government intervention in labor disputes. However, this dispute has already harmed many economic interests across the country, as evidenced by the organizations listed below. We urge you to take immediate action and use whatever means necessary, including Taft-Hartley, to get labor back to work in the nation's largest ports.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Transportation Coalition -**AgTC** Airforwarders Association Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers Amcot American Apparel & Footwear Association American Automotive Policy Council American Bakers Association American Chemistry Council American Cotton Shippers Association American Farm Bureau Federation American Home Furnishings Alliance American Import Shippers Association, Inc. American Meat Institute American Trucking Associations Arizona Retailers Association Association of American Railroads Association of Food Industries Association of Global Automakers BizFed, Los Angeles County Business Federation California Business Properties Association California Retailers Association California Trucking Association Cheese Importers Association of America Coalition of New England Companies for Trade - CONECT Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn. Connecticut Retail Merchants Association Custom Brokers & Forwarders Assn. of Northern California Custom Brokers & International Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State Express Association of America (EAA) Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA) Food Marketing Institute

Harbor Association of Industry & Commerce Harbor Truckers Association High Point Market Authority Indiana Retail Council **Inland Action** Intermodal Association of North America Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference International Franchise Association **International Wood Products Association** Louisiana Retailers Association Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association Michigan Retailers Association Midwest Shippers Association Missouri Retailers Association Montana Retail Association Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association **NAIOP Inland Empire** NAIOP SoCal NAIOP Southern Nevada NASSTRAC. Inc. National Association of Manufacturers National Cattlemen's Beef Association National Cotton Council National Council of Farmer Cooperatives National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America National Grain and Feed Association National Oilseed Processors Association National Potato Council National Retail Federation National Turkey Federation New Jersey Retail Merchants Association North American Export Grain Association North Carolina Retail Merchants Association

Orange County Business Council

Oregon Seed Association
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers
and Freight Forwarders
Pacific Northwest Asia Shippers Association
Pennsylvania Retailers' Association
Propeller Club of Los Angeles-Long Beach
Retail Association of Maine
Retail Association of Nevada
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Retail Merchants of Hawaii
Retailers Association of Massachusetts
San Diego District Customs Brokers Assn.

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San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
South Carolina Retail Association
Southern California Shipper's Association
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
State Chamber of Oklahoma
Texas Retailers Association

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
Utah Retail Merchants Association
West Virginia Retailers Association
Wine and Spirits Shippers Association

The National Industrial Transportation

The Health & Personal Care Logistics

Transportation Intermediaries Association

U S Association of Importers of Textiles and

Travel Goods Association (TGA)

USA Poultry and Egg Export Council

League

Apparel

Conference, Inc.

The Waterfront Coalition

Toy Industry Association

CC: Members of Congress

The Fertilizer Institute

Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Department of Commerce Acting Secretary Rebecca Blank California Governor Jerry Brown Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Long Beach Mayor Robert "Bob" Foster