

January 10, 2013

Mr. Harold Daggett
President
International Longshoremen's Association
5000 West Side Ave.
North Bergen, NJ 07047

Mr. James Capo
Chairman and CEO
United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd.
485C US Highway 1 South
Iselin, NJ 08830

Dear Mr. Daggett and Mr. Capo:

The undersigned associations representing U.S. manufacturers, farmers, wholesalers, retailers, importers, exporters and transportation and logistics providers applaud the International Longshoremen's Association and the U.S. Maritime Alliance for coming to agreement in principle on key contract issues and to agreeing to another contract extension without engaging in a supply chain disruption. We strongly urge both parties to continue their focused efforts to reach a new long-term contract in advance of the February 6 expiration. It is critical that a new agreement be reached without causing disruptions to our nation's supply chains.

We are hopeful that the latest extension and agreement on key issues provides a path to a final long-term agreement before the contract extension expiration on February 6. As you are well aware, failure to reach an agreement will have serious economy-wide impacts. Just the threat of a port shutdown creates a level of uncertainty in today's fragile economic climate threatening growth and jobs. Many businesses have been forced to implement costly contingency plans several times when potential shutdowns loomed. The customers, American workers and logistical networks relying on the East Coast and Gulf Coast ports cannot afford this continued uncertainty.

We urge both parties to continue negotiating with the help of the federal mediator with the goal of finalizing a long-term accord. Our organizations believe that both sides can reach mutually acceptable contract terms that will ensure the continued success and competitiveness of these ports for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your diligent efforts and determination to find a solution.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Airforwarders Association
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Automotive Policy Council
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association, Inc.

American Cotton Shippers Association
American Council of Independent Laboratories
American Forest & Paper Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Import Shippers Association
American Meat Institute
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Trucking Associations
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.

Association of Food Industries	National Customs Brokers and Forwarders
Association of Global Automakers, Inc.	Association of America (NCBFAA)
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association	National Grain and Feed Association
BizFed, Los Angeles County Business Federation	National Oilseed Processors Association
California Business Properties Association	National Pork Producers Council
California Paint Council	National Potato Council
California Retailers Association	National Retail Federation
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois	National Wood Flooring Association
Cheese Importers Association of America	New England Fuel Institute
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)	New Jersey Motor Truck Association
Connecticut Retail Merchants Association	New Jersey Paint Council
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S., Inc.	New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)	North American Meat Association
Gamma Industry Processing Alliance	North American Shippers Association, Inc.
Georgia Poultry Federation	Ohio Paint Council
Harbor Association of Industry & Commerce	Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)
Illinois Paint Council	Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders
Inland Action	Pacific Northwest Paint Council
Institute of Makers of Explosives	Pacific Northwest Asia Shippers Assoc.
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC)	Pet Food Institute
International Irradiation Association (iia)	Presidents' Forum of the Distilled Spirits Industry
International Source Suppliers and Producers Association	Propeller Club of Los Angeles-Long Beach
International Wood Products Association	Retail Association of Maine
Kentucky Forest Industries Association	Retail Council of New York State
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce	Retail Industry Leaders Association
Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association	Retail Merchants of Hawaii
Louisiana Retailers Association	Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Michigan Retailers Association	San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association	Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
NASSTRAC, Inc.	Sports & Fitness Industry Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors	State Chamber of Oklahoma
National Association of Manufacturers	Texas Paint Council
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture	Texas Retailers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association	The American Hardwood Export Council
National Chicken Council	The Fertilizer Institute
National Cotton Council	The Hardwood Federation
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives	The Hardwood Manufacturers Association
	The Health & Personal Care Logistics Conference, Inc.
	The Hosiery Association
	The Lake State Lumber Association

The Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association	United States Association of Importers of
The National Hardwood Lumber Association	Textiles and Apparel
The National Industrial Transportation League	United Fresh Produce Association
The North American Export Grain Association	US Forage Export Council
The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants	USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
The Petroleum Marketers Association of America	USA Rice Federation
The Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Assoc,	Utah Food Industry Association
Inc.	Utah Retail Merchants Association
The Waterfront Coalition	Vermont Retail Association
Toy Industry Association	Washington Retail Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association	Western Hardwood Lumber Association
Travel Goods Association (TGA)	Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America
U.S. Chamber of Commerce	Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association	Yankton Chapter of Kids Against Hunger
U.S. Meat Export Federation	