

November 3, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, importers, exporters, distributors, transportation and logistics providers, and other supply chain stakeholders, we urge support for the amendment offered by Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA) to include the “*Port Performance Act*” in the “*Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act*” (H.R. 3763). We believe this bill is an important first step to gain empirical visibility into how U.S. ports are operating, identify key congestion issues, and ensure our nation’s commerce continues to flow efficiently. The language has already been approved in the Senate-passed “*DRIVE Act*” (H.R. 22).

U.S. ports are a key component in the American transportation system and the global supply chain upon which thousands of businesses and millions of workers depend for the efficient movement of goods. Unfortunately, due to a variety of contributing factors, congestion has become commonplace at ports across the country. This congestion has resulted in slowdowns, bottlenecks, and chokepoints that impact the efficient flow of cargo with far reaching impacts on all supply chain stakeholders. One only needs to look at the damage caused to the U.S. economy from the slowdowns and congestion that impacted U.S. ports earlier this year. Today’s reality is that supply chain stakeholders do not have any consistent or objective means to measure performance in these key marine transportation nodes.

There is a strong need to start collecting basic uniform data on port performance as a means to address ongoing congestion issues that impact the national economy. This is an essential step to ensure that we fully understand the current and future challenges facing our ports and identify the right solutions. We stand ready to work with you in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition  
Airforwarders Association  
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers  
Almond Hullers & Processors Association  
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)  
American Chemistry Council  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Home Furnishings Alliance  
American Import Shippers Association

American Potato Trade Alliance  
American Pyrotechnics Association  
American Soybean Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Association of American Railroads  
Association of Food Industries  
Auto Care Association  
California Business Properties Association  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California League of Food Processors  
California Trucking Association  
California Retailers Association  
California Walnut Commission  
CAWA – Representing the automotive Parts Industry  
Columbia River Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders of Washington State  
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California  
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)  
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America  
Foreign Trade Association  
Gamma Industry Processing Alliance  
Gemini Shippers Association  
Global Automakers  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Halloween Industry Association  
Harbor Trucking Association  
Institute of Makers of Explosives  
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference  
International Association of Movers (IAM)  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
International Refrigerated Transportation Association  
International Source Suppliers and Producers Association  
International Wood Products Association  
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association  
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association  
Meat Import Council of America  
Midwest Shippers Association  
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
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 Onion Association  
National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council  
National Retail Federation  
National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council (NASSTRAC)  
National Waste & Recycling Association  
New Jersey Motor Truck Association  
North American Home Furnishings Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Shippers Association, Inc.  
National Association of Manufacturers  
Northwest Food Processors Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Oregon Export Straw Association  
Oregon Farm Bureau  
Oregon Potato Commission  
Oregon Women for Agriculture  
Oregonians for Food and Shelter  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Inc.  
PPAI - Promotional Products Association International  
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association  
Pacific Northwest Asia Shippers Association  
Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
San Diego Customs Brokers Association  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Hardwood Federation  
The National Industrial Transportation League  
The Waterfront Coalition  
Toy Industry Association  
Travel Goods Association (TGA)  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Fashion Industry Association  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United States Hide, Skin and Leather Association  
US Dry Bean Council  
US Forage Export Council  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Washington Cattle Feeders Association  
Washington Council for International Trade  
Washington Farm Bureau  
Washington Friends of Farms & Forests  
Washington Grain Commission  
Washington Retail Association  
Washington State Hay Growers Association  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Western Growers