



June 8, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20050

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris:

We write to reiterate our support for a swift and timely conclusion to the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) contract negotiations. As stated in the March 1, 2022, letter signed by 49 associations representing every part of the U.S. economy, it is imperative that a final contract is reached that avoids any supply chain disruptions. It is crucial for you to engage in the negotiations to ensure the needs of both the workers and the ports are met and further backups, delays, and inflationary costs are avoided.

We are concerned the contract discussions were recently suspended after only 10 days by the ILWU. While those talks have now resumed, there is less than a month before the contract expires and if both parties do not remain at the table and the current negotiations do not make meaningful progress toward an agreement, the consequences will exacerbate existing supply chain challenges. This will be to the detriment of the U.S. economy, American importers and exporters, the tens of millions of workers they employ, and the hundreds of millions of consumers they serve. We urge you to encourage both parties to remain at the table until an agreement is finalized because even a relatively brief port slowdown or shutdown would compound current supply chain challenges and cause long-lasting damage to consumer confidence and American businesses.

We also hope that the Administration, the PMA, and the ILWU will leverage this opportunity to address systemic operational challenges at U.S. ports, supporting infrastructure modernization and enabling transparency, data sharing, and interoperability to facilitate end-to-end visibility. These important issues must be addressed to strengthen U.S. competitiveness, to ensure our supply chains are fully prepared to support continued economic growth, and to mitigate potential disruptions in the future. As vocal supporters of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act we hope the administration will prioritize those resources to help bolster America's port infrastructure.

Much of the chaos of the last two years was unforeseen and largely unavoidable, but there is an opportunity to prevent additional disruptions if a PMA-ILWU agreement is made before the fast-

approaching contract expiration on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate the Administration's interest to lessen supply chain disruptions and we encourage you to continue to engage and act now.

The Retail Industry Leaders Association, the American Apparel & Footwear Association, and the Travel Goods Association urge swift action and consistent attention to this matter, which will safeguard our shared economic gains and protect the progress your Administration has made in addressing supply chain disruption and port congestion.

Sincerely,



Brian Dodge  
President, RILA



Michele Marini Pittenger  
President & CEO, TGA



Steve Lamar  
President & CEO, AAFA