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