Dear Mr. McEllrath and Mr. McKenna:

The undersigned organizations representing manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, importers, exporters, distributors, transportation and logistics providers, and other supply chain stakeholders are writing to applaud the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) for agreeing to early discussions on a contract extension. We are especially pleased that early discussions have resulted in a three-year contract extension offer, and we hope ILWU members will give the proposed offer their support when they consider it later this summer.

Agreeing to early contract discussions was clearly a difficult and unprecedented step. However, we believe it is a step that should serve as a model for future negotiations. Uncertainty and supply chain disruptions have caused great economic harm in the past. We strongly believe that early and continuous dialog can strengthen the U.S. economy and the competitive position of West Coast international gateways.

More important, an early contract extension will provide the stability and predictability needed to enhance U.S. global competitiveness, and will benefit many U.S. stakeholders including labor, terminal operators, cargo owners, transportation providers, and many U.S. workers and consumers.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture and Commodities Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
Airforwarders Association
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Almond Alliance of California
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Forest and Paper Association
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Import Shippers Association
American Potato Trade Alliance
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Trucking Associations
Association of Food Industries

Auto Care Association
California Apple Commission
California Blueberry Association
California Blueberry Commission
California Business Properties Association
California Farm Bureau Federation
California League of Food Processors
California Retailers Association
California Trucking Association
California Trucking Association Intermodal Conference
California Walnut Commission
CAWA- Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONECT)
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
Consumer Technology Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California  
Customs Brokers and International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Inc.  
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)  
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)  
Foreign Trade Association  
Furniture Shippers Association  
Gemini Shippers Association  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Green Coffee Association  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Harbor Association of Industry & Commerce (HAIC)  
Harbor Trucking Association  
Hardwood Federation  
Hop Growers of America  
Hop Growers of Washington  
Idaho Potato Commission  
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
International Refrigerated Transportation Association  
International Warehouse and Logistics Association  
International Wood Products Association  
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association  
Meat Import Council of America  
Midwest Shippers Association  
Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association  
Motorcycle Industry Council  
National Association of Beverage Importers  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Egg Farmers  
North American Millers’ Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Industrial Transportation League  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Onion Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council (NASSTRAC)  
National Turkey Federation  
National Waste & Recycling Association  
Naturipe Farms  
New Jersey Motor Truck Association  
New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association  
North American Blueberry Council  
North American Export Grain Association  
North American Meat Institute  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders  
Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
San Diego Customs Brokers Association  
Specialized Furniture Carriers  
Sports and Fitness Industry Association  
Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.  
The National Association of Egg Farmers  
The Toy Association  
Transportation Intermediaries Association  
Travel Goods Association (TGA)  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Fashion Industry Association  
U.S. Grains Council  
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association  
U.S. Meat Export Federation  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United States Council for International Business (USCIB)  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Washington Blueberry Commission
Washington Grain Commission
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington State Hay Growers Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington Retail Association

Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Washington Trucking Associations
Western Growers
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America