

July 9, 2014

Mr. Robert McEllrath
President
International Longshore and Warehouse Union
1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109

Mr. James McKenna
Chairman and CEO
Pacific Maritime Association
555 Market Street, Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. McEllrath and Mr. McKenna:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing United States manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, importers, distributors, and transportation and logistics providers we again call upon both parties to make every attempt possible to conclude a new agreement now that the current contract has expired.

We fully respect the process of collective bargaining and we understand the importance of the key issues for both management and labor. However, as we stated in our May 9th letter, the economic well-being of thousands of US importers and exporters, and the millions of employees and business partners, rests on a timely resolution of this new contract.

We appreciate the media blackout that has been used throughout the negotiations. It has confirmed and reinforced the stated goal from each party to stay at the table and negotiate in good faith, and not through the press.

Now that the contract has expired, we ask that both parties stay the course, complete the contract negotiations in a timely fashion and without any interruption to the smooth flow of commerce. Our organizations believe that both parties can reach an agreement that will ensure the continued success and competitiveness of these ports for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Airforwarders Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Cotton Exporters Association
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Home Furnishings Alliance (AHFA)
American Import Shippers Association
American Meat Institute
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Trucking Associations
Auto Care Association
California Business Properties Association
California Retailers Association
California Trucking Association
CAWA - Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)

Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
Cookware Manufacturers Association
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assoc. of Northern California
Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders of Washington State
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Express Association of America (EAA)
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Gemini Shippers Association
Gamma Industry Processing Alliance (GIPA)
Hardwood Federation
Institute of Makers of Explosives
International Casual Furnishings Association (ICFA)
International Source Suppliers and Producers Association (ISSA)
International Wood Products Association
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
National Association of Beverage Importers
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Cotton Council
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Retail Federation
National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council (NASSTRAC)
North American Export Grain Association
North American Meat Association
North American Shippers Association
Outdoor Industry Association
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders
Pet Food Institute
PPAI - Promotional Products Association International
Retail Industry Leaders Association
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
Specialized Furniture Carriers
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
The National Industrial Transportation League
The Waterfront Coalition
Toy Industry Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
United States Council for International Business (USCIB)
United States Fashion Industry Association
Washington Council on International Trade
Washington Retail Association
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America