

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 18, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to urge you to act quickly to ensure our nation's ports remain open to commerce. The ongoing labor dispute at our West Coast ports has disrupted our nation's transportation network, supply chain, and, most significantly, our broader economy.

Unfortunately, the dispute has already had a substantial negative impact on the movement of goods throughout the nation, and the effects continue to grow as each day passes without a resolution. As an increasing number of ships idle offshore, waiting to be loaded and unloaded, consumers and businesses across the country face empty shelves, agricultural producers lose access to international markets, and manufacturers struggle to find needed inputs.

These import and export delays have significant negative economic impacts and lingering consequences. The very real costs of delay include spoilage, especially of agricultural products, missed scheduled ports of call, higher transportation costs, or increased storage fees. In addition, shippers with goods to export have missed deadlines and been forced to pay late-delivery penalties. This dispute has damaged American suppliers' relationships with their domestic and international customers, some of whom have started to turn to competing suppliers in other nations.

The U.S. transportation network serves the American economy by moving goods in a cost-effective and competitive manner to global marketplaces. For the transportation network to work properly and serve our nation's shippers and consumers, our ports must function efficiently and reliably. This message was underscored at a subcommittee hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on February 10, 2015.

We fear this ongoing dispute will develop into a permanent loss of American jobs. While we appreciate you dispatching the Secretary of Labor to meet with both sides, should there not be resolution by March 2, 2015, two months after the federal mediator was appointed, we hope we

can count on your commitment to keep America's ports open and operating efficiently by exercising additional leadership to resolve the situation.

Sincerely,



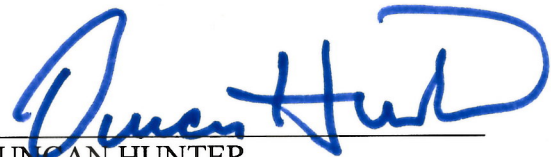
JOHN THUNE
Chairman
Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science and Transportation



BILL SHUSTER
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



DEB FISCHER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and
Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety,
and Security



DUNCAN HUNTER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime
Transportation



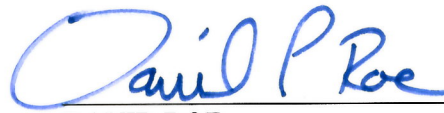
LAMAR ALEXANDER
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions



JOHN KLINE
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Workforce



JOHNNY ISAKSON
Chairman
Subcommittee on Employment and Workforce
Safety



DAVID ROE
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor
and Pensions