

June 17, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Louis Sola  
Chairman  
Federal Maritime Commission  
800 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20573

Dear Secretary Duffy, Secretary Lutnick and Chairman Sola,

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations representing U.S. importers, exporters, transportation providers and other supply chain stakeholders, we are writing to urge the administration to engage with all supply chain stakeholders to address concerns about anticipated port congestion and supply chain disruption that will soon impact U.S. competitiveness. There is great concern among stakeholders that the tariff implementation changes, especially with China, will recreate the supply chain challenges we faced during the pandemic with severe port congestion, inaccessible vessel capacity and containers, higher freight rates, and shipment delays. We respectfully urge the administration to reconstitute the White House Supply Chain Disruption Task Force to address these issues proactively and as soon as possible.

While we appreciate the goal of trying to negotiate better deals for the U.S. economy, the use of tariffs is having some unintended consequences for U.S. importers, exporters and related industries, including the logistics network across the country. With the initial imposition of the 145% tariffs on China, many companies either paused or cancelled their orders for imports to the United States. The immediate impact was a sudden decline in vessel traffic to the United States from China, which caused ocean liner carriers to reduce capacity by either pulling vessels out of the market or engaging in blank sailings in the U.S. trades, and set off layoffs and turmoil throughout multi-modal logistics industry.

With the welcomed de-escalation with China and a 90-day pause on the application of reciprocal tariffs over the 10% “base” level, many companies, both large and small, are now resuming movement of those previously paused or cancelled orders while negotiations continue between the countries. This rush to move cargo is being met with a shortage of empty shipping containers at origin and limited vessel capacity as carriers rework their vessel deployment to accommodate the spike in cargo. Further, we are starting to see congestion at foreign ports and significant increases in ocean freight rates and charges, like what many companies experienced

during the pandemic a few years ago. We have already seen several press articles (<sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>, <sup>3</sup>) noting the increased freight rates, which are now adding additional costs for businesses.

In preparing for a potential surge of cargo from Asia, especially to our West Coast ports, the U.S. landside transportation infrastructure and service providers also must be prepared for increased activity. The administration is requested to engage our ports, terminal operators, truckers, railroads, warehouses and labor to ensure readiness to support the seamless flow of cargo through the ports as it begins to arrive. We cannot afford to see a repeat of the congestion and resulting cargo velocity issues that plagued U.S. supply chains during the pandemic.

We also encourage the administration to work with ocean carriers, ports, terminal operators, rail carriers, and trucking companies to ensure they are able to meet the demands of U.S. importers and exporters especially as congestion issues start to arise in overseas markets and freight rates are increasing as well. The organizations below respectfully ask the administration to take action to mitigate the risk of severe supply chain disruptions and minimize adverse impacts on the global competitiveness of U.S. exporters and importers.

We stand ready to assist the administration in these efforts and thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council  
ACT | The App Association  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition  
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration  
Institute  
Airforwarders Association  
Alliance for Automotive Innovation  
Alliance for Chemical Distribution  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
(AAFA)  
American Association of Exporters and  
Importers  
American Automotive Policy Council  
American Bakers Association  
American Cement Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Christmas Tree Association  
American Composites Manufacturers  
Association  
American Cotton Shippers Association

American Down and Feather Council  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Home Furnishings Alliance  
American Logistics Association  
American Pet Products Association  
American Pyrotechnics Association  
American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)  
American Soybean Association  
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association (ASTRA)  
American Spice Trade Association  
AmericanHort  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Food Industries  
Auto Care Association  
Boston Custom Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association  
California Building Industry Association  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California Retailers Association  
California Walnut Commission  
California Wheat Commission  
Can Manufacturers Institute

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<sup>1</sup> [Shipping Rates Rise as U.S.-China Trade Truce Drives Import Surge](#), WSJ (5/15/25)

<sup>2</sup> [Trump China trade deal: Tariff pause means new surge in freight shipments, and higher prices](#), CNBC (5/12/25)

<sup>3</sup> [‘Fear and uncertainty’ driving up China-US container rates, American Shipper](#) (6/4)

CAWA - Representing the Automotive Parts Industry	Greenabl Shippers Association
CCBFA - Chicago Customs Broker Forwarder Association	Halloween & Costume Association
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade	Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA)
Coalition of Services Industries	Home Fashion Products Association
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association	Household & Commercial Products Association
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association	Houston Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association	ICSC
Connected Health Initiative	Idaho Grain Producers Association
Connecticut Retail Network	IL Soybean Growers
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)	Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Corn Refiners Association	Independent Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of Savannah
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)	Institute of Makers of Explosives
Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP)	Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State	International Association of Exhibitions and Events
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California	International Association of Movers
Detroit Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association	International Association of Venue Managers
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.	International Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of New Orleans
Edible Oil Producers Association	International Fresh Produce Association
Entertainment Software Association	International Housewares Association
Exhibition Services & Contractors Association	International Housewares Shippers Association (IHSA)
Exhibitions & Conferences Alliance	International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)
Experiential Designers & Producers Association (EDPA)	International Wood Products Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association	Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
Florida Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association	Kansas Chamber
FMI - the Food Industry Association	Kansas Retail Federation
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)	Kansas Soybean Association
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas	Kentucky Retail Federation
Game Manufacturers Association	Kentucky Soybean Association
Gemini Shippers Association	Leather and Hide Council of America
Georgia Retailers	Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
Global Business Alliance	Louisiana Maritime International Chamber of Commerce
Global Cold Chain Alliance	Louisiana Retailers Association
	Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association
	Maryland Retailers Alliance
	Meat Import Council of America (MICA)
	MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association
	Michigan Retailers Association
	Midwest Dry Bean Coalition
	Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
	Missouri Retailers Association
	Montana Grain Growers Association

Motorcycle Industry Council  
National Animal Supplement Council  
National Association of Beverage Importers  
(NABI)  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
(NACDS)  
National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones  
(NAFTZ)  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Music Merchants  
National Association of Waterfront Employers  
(NAWE)  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Association of Wholesaler-  
Distributors  
National Confectioners Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Chain Restaurants  
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders  
Association of America (NCBFAA)  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Foreign Trade Council  
National Industrial Transportation League  
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers  
Association  
National Milk Producer Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Restaurant Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Sporting Goods Association  
National Turkey Federation  
National Wooden Pallet & Container  
Association  
NC AgriBusiness Council  
NCBFAA Shippers Association  
Nebraska Hospitality Association  
Nebraska Retail Federation  
New Hampshire Retail Association  
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association  
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight  
Forwarders and Brokers Association Inc.  
North American Association of Food  
Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)  
North American Formal Apparel Association  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Renderers Association

North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission  
North Texas Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders  
Association  
Northarvest Bean Growers Association  
Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance, Inc.  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute  
Outdoor Power Parts and Accessories Association (OPPAA)  
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and  
Freight Forwarders Association Inc. (PCC)  
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association  
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association (PTNPA)  
Penn York lumberman's  
Pennsylvania Retailers Association  
Performance Racing Industry (PRI)  
Personal Care Products Council  
Pet Advocacy Network  
Pet Food Institute  
Pet Industry Distributors Association  
Philadelphia Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
PRINTING United Alliance  
Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Recycled Materials Association  
Retail Association of Maine  
Retail Council of New York State  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Retail Merchants of Hawaii  
Retailers Association of Massachusetts  
San Diego Customs Brokers Association  
SEMI  
Snowsports Industry America  
Society of Independent Show Organizers, SISO  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Soybean Association  
Southern California Leadership Council  
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)  
Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America  
Sports & Fitness Industry Association  
Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute  
Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.  
TechNet

Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA)	UFI - The Global Association for the
Texas International Produce Association	Exhibitions Industry
The American Waterways Operators	United States Council for International
The Baltimore Customs Brokers & Forwarders	Business
Association	Utah Food Industry Association
The Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade	Utah Retail Merchants Association
Association	Virginia Retail Federation
The Fertilizer Institute	Washington Association of Wheat Growers
The Hardwood Federation	Washington Retail Association
The Sulphur Institute	Washington State Potato Commission
The Toy Association	Washington Trucking Associations
Toy Shippers Association	Water Quality Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association	West Virginia Forestry Association
(TIA)	West Virginia Retailers Association
Travel Goods Association (TGA)	Window and door manufacturers association
U S Sweet Potato Council	Wine Institute
U.S. Apple Association	Wisconsin Soybean Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce	Women in Toys, Licensing & Entertainment
U.S. Dairy Export Council	
U.S. Fashion Industry Association	
U.S. Meat Export Federation	