



June 13, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the National Retail Federation, I am writing to urge you to vote “**Yea**” on S. 3580, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022 (OSRA22) when it comes up on the Suspension Calendar this week. Retailers across the nation continue to face significant challenges and delays due to unaddressed supply chain disruptions. **Please note that NRF will consider votes for OSRA22 as part of the Retail Opportunity Index for our voting scorecard.**

NRF is the world’s largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation’s largest private sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 52 million working Americans. Contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation’s economy.

OSRA22 includes commonsense reforms that will help address the longstanding, systemic supply chain and port disruption issues which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill includes targeted reforms that are aimed at addressing ocean carrier unfair business practices. It will strengthen the role of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) to address unreasonable demurrage and other charges, which have caused skyrocketed prices through the pandemic and have raised costs for everyone.

S. 3580 was passed earlier this year by the U.S. Senate with strong bipartisan support. We are hopeful for a similar result in the House where OSRA22’s companion legislation, H.R. 4996, was passed by an overwhelming majority via suspension vote in December 2021. It is time for Congress to finally deliver this critical legislation to President Biden’s desk to help address the ongoing challenges impacting the nation’s retailers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David French". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

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