

December XX, 2024

Mr. Harold Daggett  
President  
International Longshoremen's Association  
5000 West Side Ave.  
North Bergen, NJ 07047

Mr. David Adam  
Chairman and CEO  
United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd.  
125 Chubb Avenue, Suite 350NC  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

**RE: Resumption of Port Labor Negotiations**

Dear Mr. Daggett and Mr. Adam:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing American manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, importers, exporters, distributors, transportation and logistics providers, and other supply chain stakeholders, we are writing to urge both the International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance to return to the bargaining table with the goal of reaching a new labor contract before the new January 15 contract expiration date. **It is imperative for the parties to resume negotiations and remain at the table until a new contract is reached.**

We know that there are significant issues that remain between the parties. However, we continue to believe that the only way to resolve these issues and come to an agreement is to actually stay at the negotiating table. The continuing start and stop of the negotiations leads to further uncertainty in the supply chain, which continues to cause challenges. The three-day strike in October had a significant impact on supply chain stakeholders who rely on the East Coast and Gulf Coast ports. The additional costs from mitigation efforts as well as resumption are still being felt. Companies have continued to implement mitigation strategies because of an ongoing threat of another strike in mid-January if a new contract is not achieved.

We understand that automation and technology continues to be the biggest issue of disagreement between the parties. We continue to believe that there is a path forward for the parties to address this issue. It is critical that our ports and terminals have the ability to modernize their systems and processes in order to remain globally competitive and be able to handle the continuing rise of trade volumes, both imports and exports, through our ports. The modernization can only happen through true partnership between labor and management, as well as the other supply chain stakeholders who rely on these ports. Modernization efforts will benefit all parties and are essential to address current and future throughput issues.

We firmly believe that the remaining issues can only be resolved by returning to the negotiating table and remaining until a final deal is complete.

Sincerely,

**List of Associations**