NRF National Retail Federation

December 7, 2021

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 YES on H.R. 4996, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 (OSRA21) when it comes up on the Suspension Calendar this week. As a result of the current supply chain disruptions, the nation's retailers are facing significant delays in moving and receiving their cargo in a timely manner. This could impact the all-important holiday season for many businesses, both large and small. **Please note that NRF will consider votes for OSRA21 as part of the Retail Opportunity Index for our voting scorecard.**

We continue to witness the demand for finished goods and inputs to production outpacing the supply of equipment, labor and vessel space, resulting in significant congestion and increased costs and fees. The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 4996), would put in place common sense reforms to address long-standing issues in the maritime shipping industry, which have been further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Shipping Act has not been updated in more than twenty years; however, the industry has changed significantly in that time. The law needs to be updated to reflect 21st century global maritime trade. While the bill cannot solve all current supply chain disruption issues, it will go a long way to address some of the core issues that existed well before the COVID-19 pandemic.

We strongly encourage you support H.R. 4996 on the House floor to help address our ongoing challenges. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Gold, NRF's Vice President of Supply Chain and Customs Policy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

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