September 13, 2021

The Honorable John Garamendi U.S. House of Representatives 2368 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Dusty Johnson U.S. House of Representatives 1714 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Garamendi and Johnson,

On behalf of the undersigned companies and trade associations representing U.S. importers, exporters, transportation providers and other supply chain stakeholders, we are writing to express our strong support for the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 (OSRA21) (HR 4996) which you have introduced. We believe the reforms included in OSRA21 will help address longstanding, systemic supply chain and port disruption issues which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ongoing supply chain challenges that face the nation's exporters and importers are having a significant effect on their economic recovery during the pandemic. While the supply chain has been stretched from end-to-end, there are systemic issues that need to be addressed in the maritime cargo sphere. For many years, the issue of detention and demurrage has been a problem leading to significant cost increases for cargo owners and truckers, many times due to issues beyond their control. We certainly welcomed the Interpretive Rule on Detention and Demurrage as published by the Federal Maritime Commission, but we need more than just "guidance" that is not being followed by ocean carriers nor marine terminals, leading to hundreds of millions of dollars in unfair penalties against US shippers and their transportation partners. The legislation will seek to formalize this rule and truly define the parameters for these charges.

Foreign markets are critical to American businesses, particularly US farmers and ranchers, with more than 20% of agricultural production going abroad. Problems obtaining ocean containers of any kind combined with difficulty securing vessel space at fair and reasonable prices, are jeopardizing livelihoods and economic recovery. The attention given these unreasonable practices and the reforms proposed in OSRA21 are critical to reversing those challenges facing not only US exporters but also US businesses that rely on imports.

The legislation will also seek to update key provisions of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, which hasn't been updated in over two decades. The maritime transportation system has changed significantly during those decades. While some maritime transportation system changes have been a positive for the industry overall, we need to ensure the regulations remain applicable to today's reality. With the creation of the carrier alliances, contraction of the number of carriers in the market, changes to chassis management and others, we believe the time is right for these important reforms.

We thank you for your strong leadership on this issue to ensure that the ongoing supply chain disruption and port congestion issues are addressed. This will help ensure U.S.

competitiveness and continued economic recovery. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of this important legislation.

## Sincerely

## **Company Signatures**

Accustom Brokerage, LLC

Akzo Nobel Associated Bag

BassTech International BBT Logistics, Inc. Best Transportation

Bio-Vet, Inc

Briggs & Riley Travelware, LLC

BubbleBum USA LLC Byer California Cap America, Inc Carbochem Inc Dalakar Hill LLC Delka Trucking, Inc. Delta Cycle Corp

Epstone Inc. T/A Artistic Tile Everlast Sports Mfg Inc.

Hapco Inc.

ElliptiGO, Inc.

Hatco Corporation HCS International

Hercules Enterprises LLC Highline United LLC

**ICE Robotics** 

InUSA Manufacturing LLC

It luggage USA, Ltd. J Way Company Ju Ju Be Intl

Kontoor Brands, Inc.

Levatoy, LLC

Loftex Home LLC

Luggage Shop of Lubbock Luraco Technologies M.E. Dey & Co. Inc. Mobile Edge LLC MTI, INC. PA Multiax America Inc

Nouryon

Outdoor Gear, Inc. Regal Lager, Inc Renfro Brands LLC Schuster Products, LLC

Setlog Corp. SGP Inc

Signify North America Corporation

Star Children's Dress Co.
Stork Craft Manufacturing Inc.
Synergies Worldwide Ltd.
T.G.S. Logistics, Inc.
Town & Country Living

Transways Motor Express co., Inc.

Uncommon Carrier, Inc. United State Luggage, LLC

**UPS** 

Wausau Chemical Corporation

American Chemistry Council

Wenko Inc.

**WEST END Express** 

Xenith

Zero Halliburton, Inc.

## **Trade Association Signatures**

**Accessories Council** 

Agriculture Transportation Coalition

Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration

Institute

**ALTI** 

American Apparel & Footwear Association American Association of Exporters and

**Importers** 

American Coatings Association American Home Furnishings Alliance American Lighting Association American Pyrotechnics Association American Seed Trade Association American Spice Trade Association

American Trucking Associations

Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Association of Food Industries Forwarders Association Meat Import Council of America Auto Care Association Automotive Body Parts Association (ABPA) Michigan Chemistry Council Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association CAWA - Representing the Automotive Motorcycle Industry Council Parts Industry Color Pigments Manufacturers Association **NASSTRAC** Columbia River Customs Brokers & National Association of Chemical Distributors Forwarders Association National Association of Music Merchants Consumer Brands Association National Electrical Manufacturers Association Consumer Technology Association National Fisheries Institute Council of Fashion Designers of America National Foreign Trade Council National Industrial Transportation League (CFDA) Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of National Marine Manufacturers Association National Milk Producers Federation Northern California Customs Brokers & National Pork Producers Council International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington National Retail Federation National Ski & Snowboard Retailers Association State Dairy Farmers of America National Sporting Goods Association Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. New Jersey Motor Truck Association **Experiential Designers & Producers** North American Association of Food Association Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM) Footwear Distributors & Retailers of North American Home Furnishings Association America (FDRA) North American Meat Institute **Outdoor Industry Association** Fragrance Creators Association Freight Management Association of Canada Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Game Manufacturers Association Freight Forwarders Assns. Inc. Green Coffee Association Personal Care Products Council **Greeting Card Association** Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council Halloween & Costume Association Plumbing Manufacturers International Promotional Products Association International (PPAI) Harbor Trucking Association Home Fashion Products Association Recreational Off Highway Vehicle Association Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference San Diego Customs Brokers Association Specialty Vehicle Institute of America International Association of Movers (IAM) Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) International Association of Refrigerated The Can Manufacturers Institute Warehouses International Bottled Water Association The Fertilizer Institute The Foreign Trade Association (FTA) International Housewares Association International Warehouse Logistics Association The Hardwood Federation International Wood Products Association The Toy Association ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry **Travel Goods Association** Association U.S. Dairy Export Council Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association U.S. Fashion Industry Association United Natural Products Alliance

Wisconsin Credit Assn.

Leather and Hide Council of America

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

- CC: The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chairman, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
  - The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
  - The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal, Chairman, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation
  - The Honorable Bob Gibbs, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation