

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 (¹, ², ³) 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

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

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

³ [‘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	