

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2015

Mr. Robert McEllrath  
President  
International Longshore Warehouse Union  
1188 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94109

Mr. James McKenna  
Chairman and CEO  
Pacific Maritime Association  
555 Market Street, Third Floor  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. McEllrath and Mr. McKenna:

On behalf of our constituents, who depend on trade and the efficient flow of commerce, we strongly urge both parties to quickly resolve their differences and put an end to the nine months of negotiations. The impact of the current negotiations on port operations and the movement of goods is felt in all parts of the supply chain and across the entire country. Our constituents are losing business, letting employees go, and worrying about the future. As trade supports over 38 million jobs across the country, we strongly urge your organizations to reach an agreement, because the inability to reach consumers outside our borders impacts jobs here at home.

The efficient flow of goods is critical to our regional and national economy. In fact, last year, according to the Department of Commerce, imports and exports comprised thirty percent of our nation's gross domestic product (GDP), as our total trade reached five trillion dollars. These numbers highlight the importance of trade to our economy and emphasize how we rely on our infrastructure, and, especially in this case, our seaports.

The millions of jobs supported by this commerce also offer a glimpse at how the economic activity supported and driven by our ports reaches far beyond their borders to our farms, manufacturing facilities, and businesses. Therefore, the inability to ship perishable products in a timely manner and to import manufacturing inputs is devastating to communities across the country. As these negotiations continue, the U.S. agriculture industry suffers as our specialty crop producers are facing lost export sales and increased costs for cold storage, and the U.S. meat and poultry industry estimates losing at least \$40 million each week. This will have a long-term impact as well, as our farmers lose market share.

We were pleased to see that your organizations jointly requested the assistance of a federal mediator, and we had hoped this would help facilitate a resolution. However, we are becoming increasingly concerned the negotiations are not progressing and a shutdown is possible, which our trade-dependent communities, and nation cannot withstand. According to recent studies, the ten day West Coast port shutdown that occurred in 2002 cost the economy over \$15 billion. A study by the National Retail Federation and National Association of Manufacturers suggests a current day shutdown would be worse – over \$21 billion for ten days and impacting 169,000 jobs. Moreover, even if a resolution is reached quickly, our constituents will endure months of attempting to clear the backlog at the ports and some business may never be recovered.

We again urge you to come to a swift resolution for our workers, ports, communities, manufacturers and farmers.

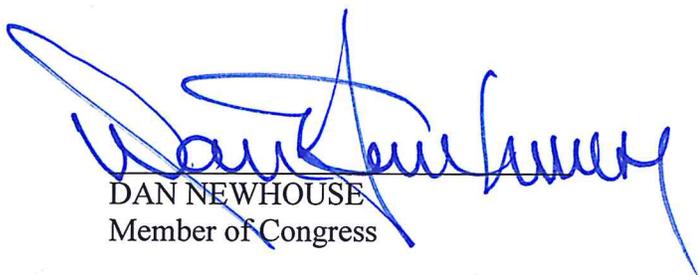
Sincerely,



DAVE REICHERT  
Member of Congress



KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress



DAN NEWHOUSE  
Member of Congress



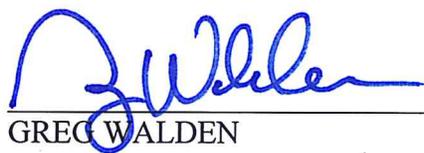
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS  
Member of Congress



JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER  
Member of Congress



MIKE SIMPSON  
Member of Congress



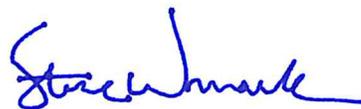
GREG WALDEN  
Member of Congress



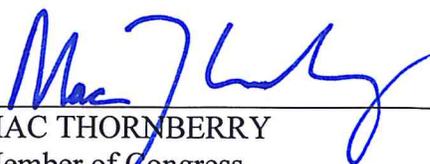
JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress



MIKE CONAWAY  
Member of Congress



STEVE WOMACK  
Member of Congress



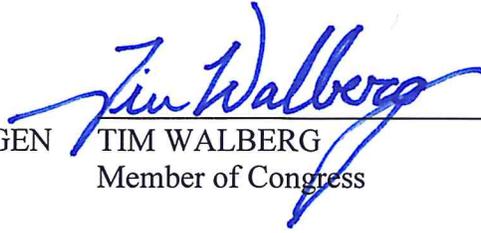
MAC THORNBERRY  
Member of Congress



ROB WOODALL  
Member of Congress



AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN  
Member of Congress



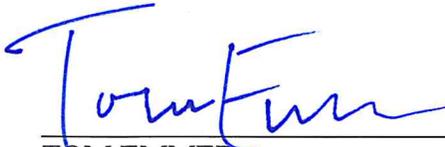
TIM WALBERG  
Member of Congress



DAVID ROUZER  
Member of Congress



PATRICK MCHENRY  
Member of Congress



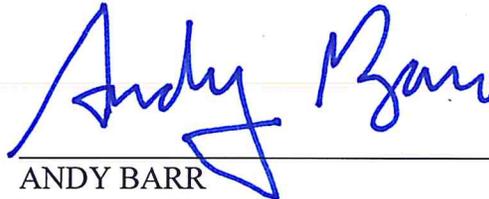
TOM EMMER  
Member of Congress



KRISTI NOEM  
Member of Congress



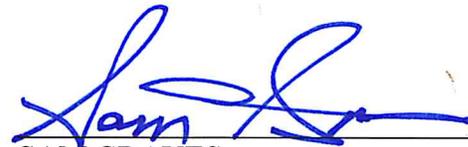
AARON SCHOCK  
Member of Congress



ANDY BARR  
Member of Congress



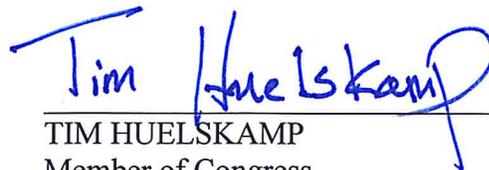
KEVIN CRAMER  
Member of Congress



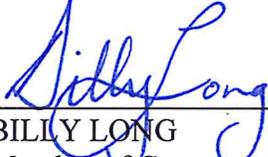
SAM GRAVES  
Member of Congress



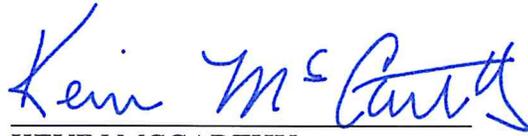
CHARLES W. DENT  
Member of Congress

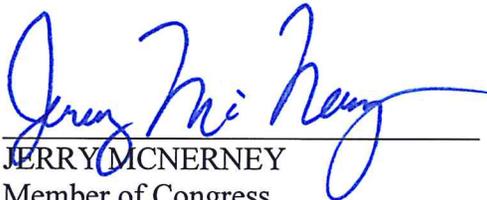


TIM HUELSKAMP  
Member of Congress

  
BILLY LONG  
Member of Congress

  
TODD YOUNG  
Member of Congress

  
KEVIN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress

  
JERRY MCNERNEY  
Member of Congress

  
RANDY HULTGREN  
Member of Congress

  
GEORGE HOLDING  
Member of Congress

  
EARL L. 'BUDDY' CARTER  
Member of Congress

  
ROBERT ADERHOLT  
Member of Congress

  
PETE SESSIONS  
Member of Congress

  
TOM ROONEY  
Member of Congress



---

KEVIN YODER  
Member of Congress



---

ED ROYCE  
Member of Congress



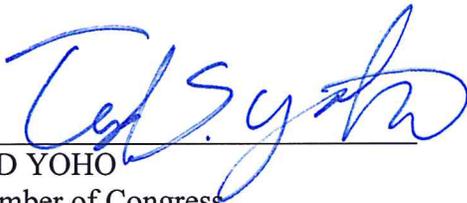
---

RANDY NEUGEBAUER  
Member of Congress



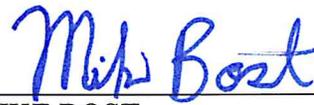
---

STEPHEN FINCHER  
Member of Congress



---

TED YOHO  
Member of Congress



---

MIKE BOST  
Member of Congress



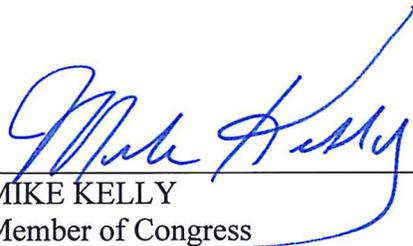
---

JEFF DENHAM  
Member of Congress



---

KENNY MARCHANT  
Member of Congress



---

MIKE KELLY  
Member of Congress

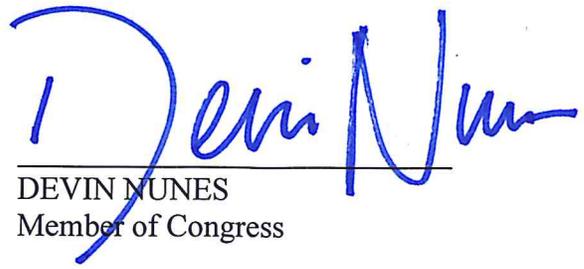


---

ROB BISHOP  
Member of Congress



DANA ROHRABACHER  
Member of Congress



DEVIN NUNES  
Member of Congress



KEN BUCK  
Member of Congress



MIKE COFFMAN  
Member of Congress



RENEE ELLMERS  
Member of Congress



REID RIBBLE  
Member of Congress



RICHARD HUDSON  
Member of Congress



BILL HUIZENGA  
Member of Congress



MARK MEADOWS  
Member of Congress



ANDY HARRIS  
Member of Congress



ADRIAN SMITH  
Member of Congress



LYNN JENKINS  
Member of Congress



MARK AMODEI  
Member of Congress



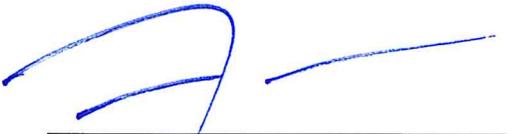
JASON SMITH  
Member of Congress



STEVE KING  
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMALFA  
Member of Congress



TOM REED  
Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER  
Member of Congress



DAN BENISHEK  
Member of Congress



PETER ROSKAM  
Member of Congress



RICKY CRAWFORD  
Member of Congress



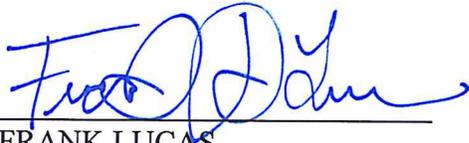
LARRY BUCSHON  
Member of Congress



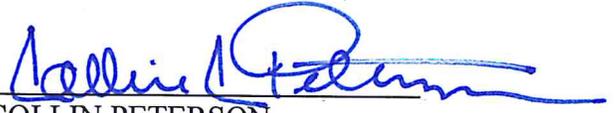
RODNEY DAVIS  
Member of Congress



FRED UPTON  
Member of Congress



FRANK LUCAS  
Member of Congress



COLLIN PETERSON  
Member of Congress



MIKE ROGERS  
Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress



RAUL LABRADOR  
Member of Congress



JACKIE WALORSKI  
Member of Congress



PAT TIBERI  
Member of Congress



SAM FARR  
Member of Congress



MADELEINE BORDALLO  
Member of Congress



FRENCH HILL  
Member of Congress



DAVID G VALADAO  
Member of Congress



BRUCE WESTERMAN  
Member of Congress

*Erik Paulsen*

ERIK PAULSEN  
Member of Congress

*Henry Cuellar*

HENRY CUELLAR  
Member of Congress

*Mike Thompson*

MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

*Steve Stivers*

STEVE STIVERS  
Members of Congress