

August 9, 2021

Representative John Garamendi
Representative Dusty Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Congressmen Garamendi and Johnson;

The US agriculture and forest products industry strongly endorses your legislation, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 "OSRA21". The undersigned companies and associations believe the Act's provisions addressing unreasonable detention and demurrage charges, export cargo bookings, and other carrier practices, are essential to allow US agriculture to remain competitive in global markets.

The transportation crisis for US agriculture and forest products is becoming increasingly dire each month. There is nothing we produce in agriculture and forest products in this country, that cannot be sourced in some other country. If we cannot deliver, affordably and dependably, our foreign customers will find alternatives to our exports. Our survey suggests that on average 22% of US agriculture foreign sales cannot be completed due to ocean carrier rates, declining to carry export cargo, unreasonable demurrage and detention charges, and other practices.

Over 150 Members of Congress have written urging prompt Federal initiative. The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure hearing, President Biden's Executive Order 14036, and Secretary of US Department of Transportation Buttigieg's recent port Roundtable all confirm that current law and regulation are insufficient to protect the ocean shipping interests of US exporters and importers.

We strongly support provisions in your bill to gain reasonable and fair ocean carrier practices consistent with the Federal Maritime Commission's excellent Interpretive Rule on Demurrage and Detention – which unfortunately has gone unheeded. It imposes upon carriers the obligation to self-police compliance with that Rule. In addition, the bill obligates ocean carriers to carry export cargo, to the extent they can do so safely. It addresses carrier practices limiting efficient use of containers, chassis and other equipment.

We greatly appreciate your engagement with the agriculture community nationwide, to develop this proposed Act. As it proceeds through the legislative process, we look forward to working with you to advance and strengthen the bill.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference, ATA
Allbright Cotton
Allied Potato
Almond Alliance of California
American Chemistry Council
American Comodity Company
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Pulse Association
American Seed Trade Association

American Trucking Associations
Anderson Northwest
Border Valley Trading
CA Walnut Commission
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Table Grape Commission
California Walnuts
Capay Canyon Ranch
Columbia Grain
Columbia Seeds

Agriculture Transportation Coalition

"The principal voice of agriculture exporters in US transportation policy"

Info@agtrans.org www.AgTrans.org

Consumer Brands Association
 Corn Refiners Association
 Cotton Warehouse Association of America
 Dairy Farmers of America
 Diamond E Transport
 Double River Forwarding, LLC
 Eckenberg Farms
 EFI Logistics Inc.
 El Toro Export, LLC
 Excel International, LLC
 Fig Garden Packing, Inc
 Foodlinx
 Grower Direct Nut Co.
 Hardwood Federation
 Humble Solutions Inc.
 Inland Empire Milling Co
 Intermodal Motor Carrier Conference, ATA
 International Dairy Foods Association
 International Paper
 Leather and Hide Council of America
 Lindsey Forwarders, Inc.
 Meat Import Council of America
 National Assn. of State Departments of Agriculture
 National Chicken Council
 National Cotton Council
 National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
 National Hay Association
 National Milk Producers Federation
 National Oilseed Processors Association
 National Onion Association
 National Pork Producers Council
 North American Meat Institute
 North American Renderers Association
 Oregon Potato Commission
 Pandol

Pacific Coast Council Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders
 Washington State Assn.
 Columbia River Assn.
 Northern California Assn.
 Los Angeles Assn.
 San Diego Assn.
 Pet Food Institute
 Produce Marketing Association
 Puris
 Quality Trading CO, LLC
 Ray-Mont Logistics
 Saddle Butte Ag, Inc
 SB&B Foods, LLC
 Smith Seed Services
 Southern States Forwarding, Inc
 Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance
 Sun Pacific Marketing
 Sunsweet
 The Fertilizer Institute
 The Gombos Company, LLC
 USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council
 USA Rice
 U.S. Dairy Export Council
 U.S. Dry Bean Council
 U.S. Forage Export Council
 U.S. Pea and Lentil Trade Association
 U.S. Meat Export Federation
 United Fresh Produce Association
 US Nisshin Shokai
 Ward Rugh, Inc.
 WeFARM Organics
 Western Agricultural Processors Association
 Western Growers Association
 Whitby Ag Enterprises
 Williams Clarke Company, Inc.
 Wine and Spirits Shippers Association



Agriculture Transportation Coalition

"The principal voice of agriculture exporters in US transportation policy"

Info@agtrans.org www.AgTrans.org



DOUBLE RIVER FORWARDING LLC



Agriculture Transportation Coalition

"The principal voice of agriculture exporters in US transportation policy"

Info@agtrans.org www.AgTrans.org