

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  
Cascade Shippers Association  
Columbia Grain

**Agriculture Transportation Coalition**

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

[Info@agtrans.org](mailto:Info@agtrans.org) [www.AgTrans.org](http://www.AgTrans.org)

Columbia Seeds  
 Consumer Brands Association  
 Corn Refiners Association  
 Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
 Dairy Farmers of America  
 Darigold  
 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



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