

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 24, 2022

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As we pass the holidays, we want to continue to alert you to the ongoing supply chain constraints, particularly in moving goods through Western U.S. ports that have reached critical status in the United States. While we disagree that there was no crisis relating to import distributions, the export disruptions continue and have serious consequences on U.S. farmers' ability to fairly compete in global markets.

Currently, while ocean carriers coming from Asia are imported into the U.S. at full capacity, those same carriers are all too often declining to take U.S. agriculture commodity exports. Foreign-owned carrier lines are returning empty containers for a quick turnaround towards more lucrative Asian imports. A record 70 percent of containers leaving California ports are leaving empty. For those foreign-owned carriers willing to haul U.S. goods across the Pacific, there are reports of unprecedented freight, storage, and demurrage fees being assessed on U.S. exporters.

Congress continues to push for reforms like the House-passed Ocean Shipping Reform Act (H.R. 4996) of 2021. However, given the critical nature of this threat to the U.S. reputation as a reliable exporter, we urge you to further use your emergency powers to address this supply chain crisis and mitigate the risks to agriculture in the United States. This includes steps to address cargo ships leaving our U.S. ports with empty containers while U.S. goods waiting for export are rejected, as well as transportation-related issues that are further exacerbating the situation.

**Specifically, we request the following steps:**

- **Utilize available emergency authorities to temporarily incentivize the outbound shipment of full containers**
  - Directing ports to provide trade-compliant priority access for carriers that commit to leaving U.S. ports with increased loads of full export containers, which would help to clear the backlog of export products on an interim basis until Congress completes longer-term legislation to provide a more fulsome solution.
- **Utilize any emergency actions that allow gross vehicle weight limits to exceed 80,000 pounds, even if only on a temporary basis**
  - For instance, current law allows states to issue permits to overweight vehicles following a federal emergency declaration under the Stafford Act, provided that those permits align with state law and are issued to vehicles exclusively delivering relief supplies.

- **Utilize any available tools or authorities to provide immediate access to critical shipping and logistics equipment**
  - Consider ways of augmenting the limited availability of shipping and logistics equipment, such as containers and chassis.

In addition to the above immediate-term items, we encourage you to examine additional near-term steps your Administration can also take to drive relief for our agricultural exporters. This supply chain crisis is already having disastrous consequences for the U.S. agriculture industry, and any delay in addressing key areas of congestion will only exacerbate the long-term ramifications. It is critical to act quickly to address these issues.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



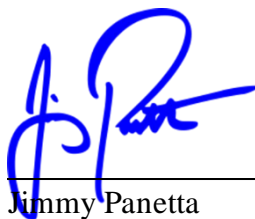
---

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



---

Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



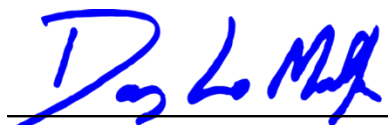
---

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



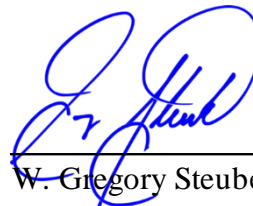
---

David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



---

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



---

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



---

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



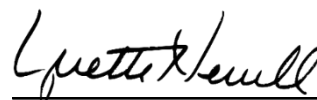
---

Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



---

Ed Case  
Member of Congress



---

Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



---

Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



---

Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



---

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



---

Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



---

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



---

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



---

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



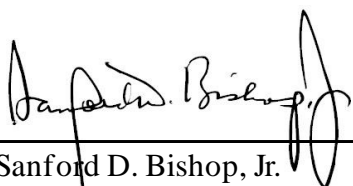
---

Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



---

Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



---

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



---

Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



---

Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



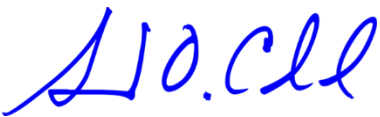
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Young Kim  
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



---

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



---

Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



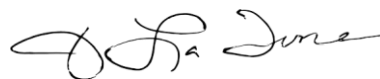
---

John Katko  
Member of Congress



---

Lisa C. McClain  
Member of Congress



---

Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



---

Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



---

Chris Jacobs  
Member of Congress



---

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



---

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



---

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



---

Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



---

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



---

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



---

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



---

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



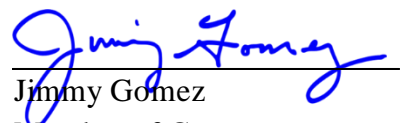
---

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



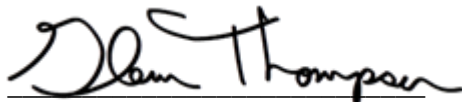
---

John R. Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



---

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Glenn "G.T." Thompson  
Member of Congress



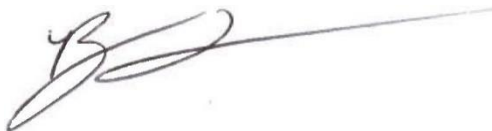
Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



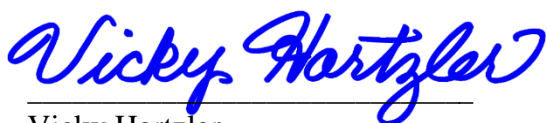
David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



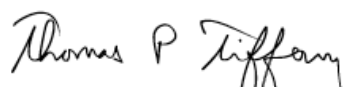
Bryon Donalds  
Member of Congress



Tom Reed  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress

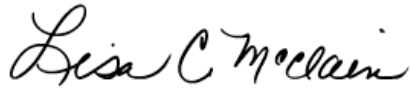


Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress





---

Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress



---

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



---

James R. Baird  
Member of Congress



---

Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress



---

Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



---

Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress