

June 10, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support Final Passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act**

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Republican Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations representing U.S. importers, exporters, transportation providers and other supply chain stakeholders, we are writing to urge final passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (S. 3580/H.R. 4996). The bills have passed previously with overwhelming bipartisan support. It is now time to finish the job to get a final bill to the President's desk to sign.

As U.S. companies continue to face ongoing supply chain disruptions and congestion in addition to rising inflation, it is critical for Congress to address these issues. Final passage of OSRA will help address the longstanding, systemic supply chain and port disruption issues that existed prior to the pandemic as the industry has changed significantly since the last time the Shipping Act was amended over 20 years ago.

Currently, shipping alliances maintain large percentages of market share and operate with the protection of antitrust immunity. Members of these alliances fail to provide timely vessel bookings and equipment and they assess extremely high rates and increasing demurrage charges when bookings are secured. They also refuse to negotiate commercial terms and solutions with their customers. Importers and exporters continue to face unreasonable business practices which OSRA seeks to address. Key to this is strengthening the role of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) to address unreasonable demurrage and other charges, which have caused skyrocketed prices through the pandemic and have raised costs for everyone.

The agency recently published its [Final Report for Fact Finding 29](#), "The Effects of COVID-19 on the U.S. International Ocean Transportation Supply Chain", with a number of recommendations to address the ongoing challenges. Final passage and presidential signature of OSRA will provide the FMC the additional authorities it needs to accomplish this.

Promptly reaching a final passed, and enacted OSRA bill will address current market conditions, made worse due to the pandemic, by helping to ensure U.S. competitiveness and

reduce inflation, and lead to continued economic recovery. We look forward to collaborating with you on final passage.

Sincerely

Accessories Council  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition – AgTC  
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration  
Institute  
Alliance for Automotive Innovation  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Association of Exporters and  
Importers  
American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC)  
American Chemistry Council  
American Coatings Association  
American Composites Manufacturers  
Association  
American Down and Feather Council  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Foundry Society  
American Home Furnishings Alliance  
American Lighting Association  
American Pyrotechnics Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
(AEM)  
Association of Food Industries  
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers  
(AHAM)  
Auto Care Association  
Autos Drive America  
Can Manufacturers Institute  
CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts  
Industry  
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association  
Consumer Brands Association  
Consumer Technology Association  
Council of Fashion Designers of America  
(CFDA)  
CTIA  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
Foreign Trade Association

Fragrance Creators Association  
Glass Packaging Institute  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Green Coffee Association  
Greeting Card Association  
Halloween & Costume Association (HCA)  
Harbor Trucking Association  
Hardwood Federation  
Health Industry Distributors Association  
Home Fashion Products Association  
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)  
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference  
International Association of Movers (IAM)  
International Bottled Water Association  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
International Housewares Association  
International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)  
ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association  
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association ~ JPMA  
Leather and Hide Council of America  
Meat Import Council of America  
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association  
Motorcycle Industry Council  
New Jersey Motor Truck Association  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Music Merchants  
National Confectioners Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Industrial Transportation League  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Restaurant Association  
National Retail Federation

National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA)  
North American Association of Food Equipment  
Manufacturers (NAFEM)  
North American Home Furnishings Association  
North American Meat Institute  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Personal Care Products Council  
Pet Advocacy Network  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
Power Tool Institute  
Promotional Products Association International  
(PPAI)  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
(ROHVA)

Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)  
Snowsports Industries America  
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates  
(SOCMA)  
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)  
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)  
Toy Association  
Travel Goods Association (TGA)  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
U.S. Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)  
Vinyl Institute

CC: Chairman Maria Cantwell, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Ranking Member Roger Wicker, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Chairman Peter DeFazio, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Ranking Member Sam Graves, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure