

July 15, 2015

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee
Unites States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, importers, exporters, distributors, transportation and logistics providers and other supply chain stakeholders, we applaud the Committee's recent approval of the "Ports Performance Act" (S. 1298). We believe this bill is an important first step to gain empirical visibility into how U.S. ports are operating, identify key congestion issues and ensure our nation's commerce continues to flow efficiently.

We would like to express our strong support for including the Ports Performance Act as part of the "Comprehensive Transportation and Consumer Protection Act of 2015" (S. 1732). S. 1732 includes a new focus on the multi-modal freight network, which includes U.S. ports of entry. U.S. ports are a key component in the American transportation system and the global supply chain that thousands of businesses and millions of workers depend upon for the efficient movement of goods.

Unfortunately, due to a variety of contributing factors, congestion has become common place at ports across the country. This congestion has resulted in slowdowns, bottlenecks and chokepoints that impact the efficient flow of cargo with far reaching impacts on all supply chain stakeholders. One only needs to look at the damage caused to the U.S. economy from the slowdowns and congestion that impacted U.S. ports earlier this year. Today's reality is that supply chain stakeholders do not have any consistent or objective means to measure performance in these key marine transportation nodes.

We fully believe that there is a strong need to start collecting basic uniform data on port performance. This is an essential step to ensure that we fully understand the current and future challenges facing our ports and identify the right solutions. We stand ready to work with you in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference (AFTC)
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Agri-Business Council of Oregon
Airforwarders Association
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Almond Hullers & Processors Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers

American Chemistry Council
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Import Shippers Association
American Potato Trade Alliance
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Soybean Association
American Trucking Associations
Association of Food Industries
Auto Care Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fresh Fruit Association
California League of Food Processors
California Trucking Association
California Walnut Commission
CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
Columbia River Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders of Washington State
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Foreign Trade Association
Gemini Shippers Association
Global Automakers
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Green Coffee Association
Halloween Industry Association
Harbor Truckers Association
Idaho Potato Commission
Institute of Makers of Explosives
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC)
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses
International Refrigerated Transportation Association
International Wood Products Association
Juvenile Product Manufacturers Association
Los Angeles Area Chamber Of Commerce
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
Midwest Shippers Association
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Association of Manufacturers

National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Onion Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Retail Federation
National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council (NASSTRAC)
National Waste & Recycling Association
New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association
North American Blueberry Council
North American Export Grain Association
North American Home Furnishings Association
North American Shippers Association, Inc.
Northwest Food Processors Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Orange County Business Council
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oregon Essential Oil Growers League
Oregon Export Straw Association
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Seed Council
Oregon Seed League
Oregon Trucking Association
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Oregonians for Food and Shelter
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association, Inc.
Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association
Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association
Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
Retail Industry Leaders Association
San Diego Customs Brokers Association
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Specialty Crop Trade Council
Sunmaid Growers of California
Sunsweet Growers Inc.
The Hardwood Federation
The National Industrial Transportation League
The Waterfront Coalition
Toy Industry Association
Transportation Club of Seattle
Transportation Club of Tacoma
Transportation Intermediaries Association
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Shippers Association (USSA)
United Fresh Produce Association
United States Fashion Industry Association

U.S. Hide, skin and Leather Association
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
US Dry Bean Council
US Forage Export Council
Washington Grain Commission
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington State Hay Growers Association
Washington Trucking Association
Western Growers