

September 19, 2016

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, importers, exporters, distributors, and transportation and logistics providers, we appreciate your actions related to the Hanjin Shipping Company bankruptcy and urge you to continue to engage the South Korean government to bring a swift and economically positive resolution to the situation.

U.S. businesses rely on predictability in their supply chains, particularly during the busiest shipping season of the year. The recent bankruptcy filing has caused widespread disruptions in freight shipments worldwide.

Since this is ongoing, the level of anxiety remains high as shippers wonder when Hanjin ships will be allowed to enter ports and if their goods will be seized by Hanjin's creditors once they are docked. There are also concerns about critical cargo that remains at overseas ports. For some, there is added confusion about the location of cargo, where cargo will be unloaded and how the cargo will be transported. The trade community is also facing steadily increasing freight charges as they look for new transportation options as well as concerns about fees assessed on cargo. The impact on small and medium sized companies could be particularly devastating if this situation is not resolved in a timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your outreach to the business community throughout the process. We strongly encourage you to continue to work with the South Korean government to bring about a swift and economically beneficial resolution that will allow cargo to move through the global supply chain and give certainty to U.S. businesses.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Airforwarders Association
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Almond Alliance of California
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Hardwood Export Council
American Home Furnishings Alliance

American Import Shippers Association
American Potato Trade Alliance
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Walnut Manufacturers Association
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.
Association of Food Industries
Auto Care Association
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Farm Bureau
California League of Food Processors
California Retailers Association
California Trucking Associations
CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
CONNECT – Coalition of New England Companies for Trade
Consumer Technology Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America
Furniture Shippers Association
Foreign Trade Association
Gemini Shippers Group
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Green Coffee Association
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Harbor Association of Industry & Commerce
Harbor Trucking Association
Hardwood Federation
Hardwood Manufacturers Association
Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association
Halloween Industry Association, Inc.
Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen’s Association
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
International Association of Movers
International Wood Products Association
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association, Inc.
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association
Meat Import Council of America
Midwest Shippers Association
Missouri Forest Products Association
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
National Association of Beverage Importers

National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Association of Manufacturers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
National Foreign Trade Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Hardwood Lumber Association
National Industrial Transportation League
National Milk Producers Federation
National Onion Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Retail Federation
National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council
National Waste & Recycling Association
National Wood Flooring Association
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Assn.
North American Export Grain Association
North American Meat Institute
North Carolina Forestry Association
Northwest Food Processors Association
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
Outdoor Industry Association
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders
Promotional Products Association International
Propeller Club of Los Angeles-Long Beach
Railway Tie Association
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
Toy Industry Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Fashion Industry Association
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC)
United Fresh Produce Association
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
Virginia Forest Products Association
Virginia Forestry Association
Virginia Loggers Association
Washington Council on International Trade
Washington Farm Bureau

Washington Trucking Associations
Western Growers Association
Western Hardwood Association
Wood Component Manufacturers Association