

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	Fragrance Creators Association
Agricultural Retailers Association	Glass Packaging Institute
Agriculture Transportation Coalition – AgTC	Global Cold Chain Alliance
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute	Green Coffee Association
Alliance for Automotive Innovation	Greeting Card Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association	Halloween & Costume Association (HCA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers	Harbor Trucking Association
American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC)	Hardwood Federation
American Chemistry Council	Health Industry Distributors Association
American Coatings Association	Home Fashion Products Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association	Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
American Down and Feather Council	Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
American Forest & Paper Association	Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
American Foundry Society	International Association of Movers (IAM)
American Home Furnishings Alliance	International Bottled Water Association
American Lighting Association	International Foodservice Distributors Association
American Pyrotechnics Association	International Housewares Association
American Trucking Associations	International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)
Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers	ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)	Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association ~ JPMA
Association of Food Industries	Leather and Hide Council of America
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM)	Meat Import Council of America
Auto Care Association	Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Autos Drive America	Motorcycle Industry Council
Can Manufacturers Institute	New Jersey Motor Truck Association
CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry	National Association of Chemical Distributors
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association	National Association of Home Builders
Consumer Brands Association	National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers
Consumer Technology Association	National Association of Manufacturers
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)	National Association of Music Merchants
CTIA	National Confectioners Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States	National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Foreign Trade Association	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