

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