

December 17, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is the unified and collective voice of the public seaports in the Americas. On behalf of the U.S. members of AAPA, we urge you to take the necessary steps to assign federal mediators to help resolve the ongoing contract negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) as quickly as possible.

AAPA commends the numerous port visits and public comments that you, Vice President Biden, Transportation Secretary Foxx, and others in your Administration have made that have helped raised awareness of the vital roles played by America's seaports. As your Administration has rightly noted, our seaports are vital to our nation's economy, jobs, and international competitiveness.

International trade accounts for 30 percent of the U.S. economy, and that share continues to grow. The more than two billion tons of trade moving through U.S. ports support more than 13 million American jobs and generate over \$200 billion a year in tax revenues. American manufacturers, retailers, small businesses, and consumers rely on just-in-time delivery of raw materials, components, and consumer goods. Farmers and other businesses competing in global markets need an efficient and reliable means to export their products to maintain market share and remain competitive.

As the economy continues its recovery, America cannot afford disruptions nor a shutdown of any portion of its port system. After seven months of negotiations without reaching an agreement, significant impacts are being felt throughout the supply chain, and uncertainty and concerns are mounting daily. AAPA believes federal mediation has become a necessary tool and that such assistance will help both the ILWU and PMA to find a fair and equitable resolution to the negotiations in an expedited manner.

We appreciate your ongoing support for America's seaports and your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO