

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,

1. Agriculture Transportation Coalition
2. Agri-Business Council of Oregon
3. Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
4. Almond Hullers & Processors Association
5. American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
6. American Association of Exporters and Importers
7. American Chemistry Council
8. American Cotton Shippers Association
9. American Forest & Paper Association

10. American Import Shippers Association
11. American Pyrotechnics Association
12. American Soybean Association
13. American Trucking Associations
14. Association of Food Industries
15. Auto Care Association
16. California Farm Bureau Federation
17. California Fresh Fruit Association
18. California Trucking Association
19. CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
20. Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
21. Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
22. Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
23. Foreign Trade Association
24. Gemini Shippers Association
25. Green Coffee Association
26. Halloween Industry Association
27. Harbor Truckers Association
28. Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC)
29. International Wood Products Association
30. Juvenile Product Manufacturers Association
31. Los Angeles Area Chamber Of Commerce
32. Midwest Shippers Association
33. Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
34. National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
35. National Association of Chemical Distributors
36. National Association of Egg Farmers
37. National Association of Manufacturers
38. National Cotton Council
39. National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
40. National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America
41. National Grain and Feed Association
42. National Onion Association
43. National Pork Producers Council
44. National Retail Federation
45. National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council (NASSTRAC)
46. New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association
47. North American Shippers Association, Inc.
48. Northwest Food Processors Association
49. Northwest Horticultural Council
50. Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
51. Oregon Export Straw Association
52. Oregon Farm Bureau
53. Oregon Seed Council
54. Oregon Trucking Association
55. Oregon Women for Agriculture
56. Oregonians for Food and Shelter
57. Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
58. Retail Industry Leaders Association

59. San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
60. The Hardwood Federation
61. The National Industrial Transportation League
62. The Waterfront Coalition
63. Toy Industry Association
64. Travel Goods Association (TGA)
65. U.S. Chamber of Commerce
66. U.S. Shippers Association (USSA)
67. United Fresh Produce Association
68. United States Fashion Industry Association
69. US Dry Bean Council
70. US Forage Export Council
71. Washington Farm Bureau
72. Washington Trucking Association
73. Western Growers