

September 27, 2024

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write representing a wide cross-section of the agricultural supply chain facing imminent and severe shipping disruptions due to rail embargoes impacting trade with Mexico, potential labor strikes at East and Gulf Coast ports, and historically low water levels on the Mississippi River. These disruptions will have a ripple effect across the entire United States. We urge your administration to take immediate action to mitigate these growing shipping challenges.

The agriculture industry relies on a three-legged stool to get products to market: trucking, rail, and water, including barges and ocean-going vessels. A balanced and efficient operation of all three is essential to moving our products throughout the United States, North America, and abroad.

Approximately 40 percent of U.S. containerized agricultural exports move through East and Gulf Coast ports. The negotiations between the International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance are stalled and we request for you to bring the parties to the table, mediate a negotiation, and be prepared to step in should a strike or lockout occur to ensure port operations continue. If the parties are unable to reach a resolution before the current labor agreement expires on September 30, the impact on the supply chain will quickly reverberate throughout the agricultural economy, shutting down operations and potentially lowering farmgate prices. It is critical that the administration work with both parties to resume negotiations and avoid work stoppages at the ports. As ports prepare for a potential work stoppage, an emergency hours of service waiver from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for truck drivers at East and Gulf Coast ports would be helpful.

Compounding the agricultural shipping hurdles are significant rail challenges and Mexican imposed embargoes on U.S. agricultural shipments to Mexico, which dramatically slows two U.S. railroads from interchanging U.S. agricultural products with their Mexican rail partner. Mexico is our industry's largest export market for many commodities and in the past year alone, over \$30 billion worth of U.S. agricultural products have been exported to Mexico. However, limited access to this crucial market persists as North American trade growth has outpaced Mexican rail capacity. The rail challenges in Mexico are not confined and can extend to other agricultural rail shipments. Immediate support from the U.S. government is urgently needed to restore full trade access with Mexico for U.S. agriculture.

Further compounding the shipping crisis are weather-related issues such as low water levels in the inland waterways forcing barges to carry lighter loads, and expected

hurricanes that can potentially result in port closures in the southeast. To allow for more efficient navigation when there are low water levels we request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers use its dredging capabilities to maintain 12-foot-deep channels on the lower Mississippi River.

A substantial portion of U.S. agriculture is experiencing lower commodities prices and financial strain, and these transportation issues are exacerbating the situation. We ask your administration to urgently pursue all avenues to mitigate the supply chain challenges facing U.S. agriculture. We thank you for your consideration and responsiveness.

Sincerely,

ACG Products  
ADM  
AgMark LLC  
Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition- AgTC  
Agri-Mark, Inc.  
AgState  
ALCIVIA  
Alura Inc.  
Amcot  
American Chemistry Council  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Dairy Products Institute  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Frozen Foods Institute  
AmericanHort  
American Malting Barley Association  
American Pulse Association  
American Soybean Association  
Arizona Grain, Inc  
Arkansas Rice Federation  
Asimetrix Inc.  
Associated Milk Producers Inc.  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Attebury Grain, LLC  
Barkery Inc.  
Bocker Ruff Grain  
California Grain and Feed Association

California Pork Producers Association  
California Poultry Federation  
California Seed Association  
California Walnut Commission  
Carolina Feed Industry Association  
Cayuga Milk Ingredients  
Central Missouri AGRIService LLC  
Central Valley Ag  
CHS  
Colorado Pork Producers Council  
Columbia Grain  
CoMark Equity Alliance  
Consolidated Grain and Barge  
Consumer Brands Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Darigold  
D. E. Bondurant Grain Co. Inc.  
dsm-firmenich  
Extru-Tech, LLC  
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
Florida Feed Association, Inc.  
Forest Resources Association  
Fornazor International Inc.  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
FS GRAIN, LLC  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Grainland Farmers  
Green Plains  
GROWMARK, Inc.  
Growth Energy  
Hallway Feeds  
Hamel Cooperative Grain Company  
Hardwood Federation  
Heritage Grain  
High Desert Milk  
HighLine Grain Growers  
Hilmar Cheese Company  
Illinois Pork Producers Association  
Indiana Pork Producers Association  
International Fresh Produce Association  
International Ingredient Corporation  
Iowa Pork Producers Association  
James Farrell & Co.  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association

Kansas Pork Association  
Kentucky Pork Producers Association  
Kentucky Soybean Association  
Ladd Elevator Company  
Lallemand Animal Nutrition  
Leland Farmers Company  
Ludlow Co-op Elevator Co.  
Meat Institute  
MFA Incorporated  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Agricultural Commodities  
Michigan Bean Commission  
Michigan Bean Shippers  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Milk Specialties Global  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
MKC  
MN AgriGrowth Council  
Minnesota Barley Growers Association  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Missouri Agribusiness Association  
Missouri Pork Association  
Montana Pork Producers Council  
Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc.  
National Aquaculture Association  
National Association of Landscape Professionals  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Cotton Council  
National Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grange  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
Nebraska Dry Pea & Lentil Commission  
Nebraska Pork Producers Association  
North American Renderers Association  
Northharvest Bean Growers Association  
North Carolina Pork Council

North Carolina Soybean Producers Association  
North Dakota Agricultural Association  
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association  
Northeast Agribusinesses & Feed Alliance  
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives  
Northern Pulse Growers Association  
Novonosis North America  
Nugen,LLC  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Pork Council  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association  
Oklahoma Pork Council  
One Earth Energy, LLC  
Oregon Feed & Grain Association  
Pacific Coast Renderers Association  
Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association  
Pacific Seed Association  
Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council  
Pet Food Institute  
POET  
Prairie Central Cooperative  
Premier Cooperative, Inc.  
Premex Inc.  
Primient  
Producer Ag  
RCM Co-op  
Renewable Fuels Association  
Riceland Foods  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
Rocky Mountain Bean Dealers Association  
Sartori Cheese  
Scoular  
Sorrells Farm Supply, Inc.  
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Pulse Crops Commission  
Southeastern Grain & Feed Association  
Soy Transportation Coalition  
Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance  
StoneX  
Texas Grain & Feed Association  
Texas Pork Producers Association  
The Andersons, Inc.  
The DeLong Co.  
The Fertilizer Institute

TN Feed & Grain Assn  
Top Ag Cooperative  
TransAgra International Inc.  
Tri Central Coop  
United Animal Health  
United Farmers Cooperative  
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.  
Ursa Farmers Cooperative  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
US Dry Bean Council  
U.S. Grains Council  
U.S. Meat Export Federation  
US Pea & Lentil Trade Association  
U.S. Peanut Federation  
US Rice Producers Association  
US Wheat Associates  
Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Virginia Pork Council  
Virginia Soybean Association  
Waterways Council Inc.  
Western Grain Marketing  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wisconsin Pork Association

CC:

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
The Honorable Robert Primus, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board  
The Honorable Julie Su, Acting Secretary, Department of Labor  
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation  
General William Graham, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure