March 24, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, and the millions of businesses and
employees we represent, we are writing to you once again regarding the ongoing West Coast port
labor negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific
Maritime Association. The labor contract has now been expired for over eight months.
Negotiations have been ongoing for over ten months, with little to no progress towards a new
long-term agreement. It is imperative that the administration work with the parties to quickly
reach a new agreement and ensure there is no disruption to port operations and cargo fluidity.

We previously shared our concerns on July 1, 2022 when the contract initially expired. At
that time we called upon the administration to engage with the parties as well as urged the parties
to agree to a contract extension while negotiations continued. We applaud the engagement from
former Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh through the negotiations. Now that he has departed the
administration it is critical that a new administration point person be named to continue
engagement with the parties as they negotiate. With the lack of progress to date, we would also
encourage the administration to offer mediation services to the parties in their negotiations.

As we have witnessed, significant cargo flows have shifted away from the West Coast
ports because of the uncertainty related to the labor negotiations. While there certainly are other
issues impacting the West Coast ports, many cargo interests have expressly stated that they
shifted cargo as a result of the negotiations. That cargo will not return to the West Coast until
after a contract is final and approved by both parties. The longer there is no ratified contract only
increases the probability that some portion of the freight will never return to the West Coast
ports.

Businesses have already made their shipping decisions for the all-important peak
shipping season, which will begin this summer. Even though cargo volumes have dropped, we
continue to experience supply chain stress and challenges. While many continue to recover from
pandemic related issues, the ongoing stress of inflation and economic uncertainty continues to
impact supply chain stakeholders as well.

The lack of a labor contract adds to this uncertainty. While we appreciate that the parties
agreed not to engage in a strike or a lockout, we are aware of several instances of activities that
have impacted terminal operations. We need the administration to ensure these activities do not
continue or escalate.

Washington Retail Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Washington Trucking Associations
West Virginia Retailers Association
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Growers