June 10, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support Final Passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Republican Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations representing U.S. importers, exporters, transportation providers and other supply chain stakeholders, we are writing to urge final passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (S. 3580/H.R. 4996). The bills have passed previously with overwhelming bipartisan support. It is now time to finish the job to get a final bill to the President’s desk to sign.

As U.S. companies continue to face ongoing supply chain disruptions and congestion in addition to rising inflation, it is critical for Congress to address these issues. Final passage of OSRA will help address the longstanding, systemic supply chain and port disruption issues that existed prior to the pandemic as the industry has changed significantly since the last time the Shipping Act was amended over 20 years ago.

Currently, shipping alliances maintain large percentages of market share and operate with the protection of antitrust immunity. Members of these alliances fail to provide timely vessel bookings and equipment and they assess extremely high rates and increasing demurrage charges when bookings are secured. They also refuse to negotiate commercial terms and solutions with their customers. Importers and exporters continue to face unreasonable business practices which OSRA seeks to address. Key to this is strengthening the role of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) to address unreasonable demurrage and other charges, which have caused skyrocketed prices through the pandemic and have raised costs for everyone.

The agency recently published its Final Report for Fact Finding 29, “The Effects of COVID-19 on the U.S. International Ocean Transportation Supply Chain”, with a number of recommendations to address the ongoing challenges. Final passage and presidential signature of OSRA will provide the FMC the additional authorities it needs to accomplish this.

Promptly reaching a final passed, and enacted OSRA bill will address current market conditions, made worse due to the pandemic, by helping to ensure U.S. competitiveness and
reduce inflation, and lead to continued economic recovery. We look forward to collaborating with you on final passage.

Sincerely

Accessories Council
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition – AgTC
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC)
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Down and Feather Council
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Lighting Association
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Trucking Associations
Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of Food Industries
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM)
Auto Care Association
Autos Drive America
Can Manufacturers Institute
CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
CTIA
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Foreign Trade Association

Fragrance Creators Association
Glass Packaging Institute
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Green Coffee Association
Greeting Card Association
Halloween & Costume Association (HCA)
Harbor Trucking Association
Hardwood Federation
Health Industry Distributors Association
Home Fashion Products Association
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference
International Association of Movers (IAM)
International Bottled Water Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Housewares Association
International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)
ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association ~ JPMA
Leather and Hide Council of America
Meat Import Council of America
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
New Jersey Motor Truck Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Music Merchants
National Confectioners Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Fisheries Institute
National Industrial Transportation League
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA)
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
North American Home Furnishings Association
North American Meat Institute
Outdoor Industry Association
Personal Care Products Council
Pet Advocacy Network
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Power Tool Institute
Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)

Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Snowsports Industries America
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
Toy Association
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)
Vinyl Institute

CC: Chairman Maria Cantwell, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Ranking Member Roger Wicker, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Chairman Peter DeFazio, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Ranking Member Sam Graves, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure