

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2015

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

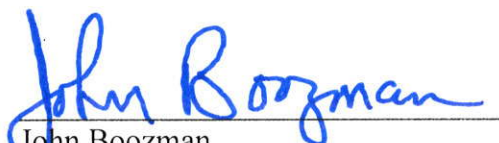
As you know, contract negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) have been ongoing since spring of 2014. This dispute has severely disrupted all aspects of operations at our country's West Coast ports, having detrimental economic consequences for workers, farmers, and families across the U.S. A small businesswoman in Newport, Arkansas recently sent a desperate plea to our congressional delegation saying: "The West Coast port labor slowdown is really beginning to cost our company... We are a small family owned business and do not have the ability to withstand large losses."


We are hearing from many small businesses, farmers, livestock and poultry producers, store owners, factories, and workers who are impacted by this situation. Vessels continue to be anchored at bay, unable to load and unload cargo at docks which are effectively at maximum utilization capacity. The PMA has reported West Coast ports have a domestic business impact of \$2.1 trillion and 12.5 percent of the U.S. GDP is connected to cargo moving through these ports. If these parties do not come to an agreement, it is estimated a 5-day shutdown would cost the U.S. economy approximately \$2 billion a day. In our home state of Arkansas, the economic impacts of these slowdowns have been felt for months, but the situation is becoming much more severe. These delays must come to an end.

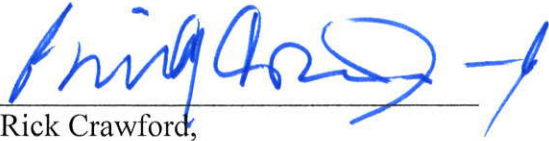
All parties should recognize that the uncertainty created by these disruptions will increasingly cause shippers to develop and utilize alternative transportation options, including increased reliance on the Panama Canal and other North American facilities.

We encourage you to immediately engage with both parties and work with them to resolve any outstanding differences they may have to avoid a shutdown. We appreciate you receiving this letter and look forward to your leadership on these matters.

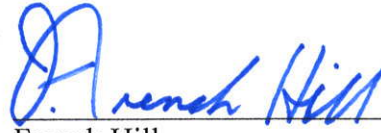
Sincerely,


John Boozman,
U.S. Senator

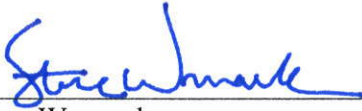

Tom Cotton,
U.S. Senator



Rick Crawford,
Member of Congress



French Hill,
Member of Congress



Steve Womack,
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman,
Member of Congress