

WEST COAST COMPETITIVENESS COALITION

July 20, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. Defazio
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: *The Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Fund Act of 2020*

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

On behalf of the West Coast Competitiveness Coalition, we write to express our support of the Marine Transportation System Emergency Relief Act of 2020 (H.R. 7515). The creation of an emergency relief program for the maritime supply chain represents a long overdue advancement in relief funding for our critical infrastructure sector.

The West Coast Competitiveness Coalition is comprised of the West Coast's major container ports, marine terminal operators, industry associations, railroads, warehouses and transportation service providers. Collectively, we represent the America's trade gateway to the Pacific Rim and beyond, sustaining employment and economic activity in our host communities and across the nation.

From the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic to today, we have taken extraordinary measures to ensure the West Coast supply chain continues to operate safely and smoothly in support of the nation's pandemic response and recovery. The relief offered by the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act is a profound acknowledgement of the importance of our industry and the critical role it plays in the event of natural or manmade emergencies. Furthermore, the eligibility of both private and public sector entities is a key provision for this emergency and disaster relief program.

Additionally, we seek to ensure the continued competitiveness and viability of our trade gateways through sustained federal investment in the West Coast's maritime transportation system. We greatly appreciate your leadership on Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) reform and would like to work with you to ensure equitable distribution of other sources, including BUILD, INFRA, and Port Infrastructure Development Program grants.

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Support for Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act of 2020 (H.R. 7515)

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Again, we thank you for your leadership and offer our assistance in ensuring the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Program is funded, established, and implemented as quickly as possible. Similarly, we would be happy to work with you to ensure infrastructure funding sources are distributed in an effective and equitable manner for the benefit of the entire nation.

Sincerely,



Mario Cordero
Executive Director
Port of Long Beach



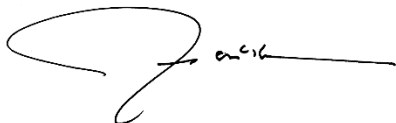
Eugene D. Seroka
Executive Director
Port of Los Angeles



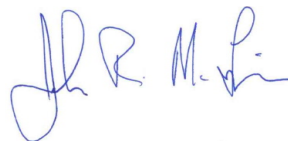
John Wolfe
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