

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 4, 2002

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

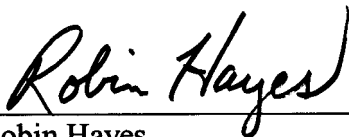
We are writing to express our deepest concern about the critical situation currently taking place in West Coast Ports. We respectfully request that you utilize all your resources to bring resolution to this matter as soon as possible.

As you know, our agriculture sector is already feeling the impacts of this lock-down. More than half of our country's agricultural exports move through these West Coast Ports. In addition, the markets served by these ports account for a substantial amount of U.S. agricultural export sales each year. The Pacific Rim accounts for more than 60% of beef exports, 50% of pork exports and more than 25% of our poultry exports. Each day this continues, our livestock industry loses millions.


In addition, frozen and fresh fruits, vegetables and other perishable commodities are also profoundly impacted. With storage space rapidly disappearing as shipments accumulate, the effects of this lock-down will continue to have severe economic impacts throughout the supply chain.

Mr. President, the longer our ports sit idle, the more our overseas markets see the U.S. as an unreliable supplier of agricultural, food and fiber products. We cannot afford to lose ground in world markets. It is essential that we restore operations immediately and resume our export operations. Our Nation's economy depends on it. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



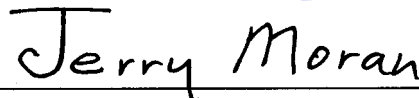
Robin Hayes
Member of Congress



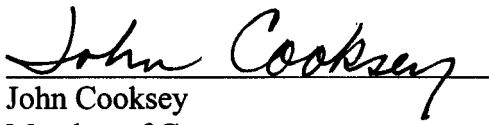
Chip Pickering
Member of Congress

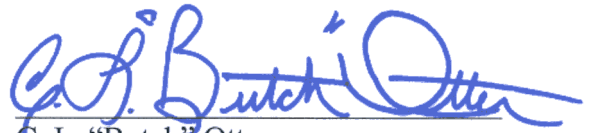



John Thune
Member of Congress

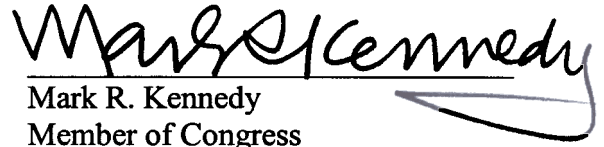


Jerry Moran
Member of Congress

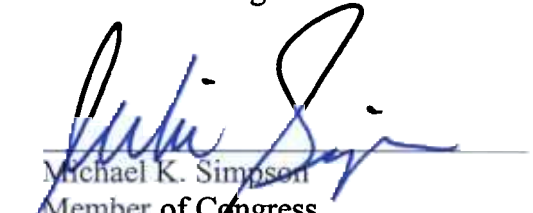

John Cooksey
Member of Congress

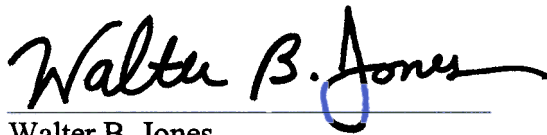

C. L. "Butch" Otter
Member of Congress



Terry Everett
Member of Congress



Mark R. Kennedy
Member of Congress


Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress


Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Cass Ballenger
Member of Congress


Sam Graves
Member of Congress


Sue Myrick
Member of Congress