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October XX, 2021

The Honorable XXX

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative XXX

 On behalf of (Insert Company Name), I am writing to urge you to support the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 4996).

 As a result of the current supply chain disruptions, we are facing significant delays in moving and receiving our cargo in a timely manner. We are witnessing the demand for finished goods and inputs to production outpacing the supply of equipment, labor and vessel space, resulting in significant congestion and increased costs and fees.

[Insert company specific information]

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 4996), introduced by Representatives John Garamendi (D-CA) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD), would put in place common sense reforms to address long-standing issues in the maritime shipping industry, which have been further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill would codify the Federal Maritime Commission’s (FMC) interpretive rule on detention and demurrage, which would clarify when these charges are assessed; it would establish minimum service requirements for contracts to ensure that freight is not unreasonably refused; provides new enforcement tools to the FMC; and ensures anti-retaliatory safeguards to protect those who file complaints with the FMC.

The Shipping Act has not been updated in more than 20 years; however, the industry has changed significantly in that time. The law needs to be updated to reflect 21st century global maritime trade. We encourage you to cosponsor HR. 4996 and seek quick Congressional passage to help address our ongoing challenges.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me at (xxx) xxx-xxxx if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

(name, title)