



1919 S. Eads St.
Arlington, VA 22202
703-907-7600
CTA.tech

September 25, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) and the businesses and employees we represent, I am writing to express our growing concern regarding the ongoing East Coast and Gulf Coast port labor negotiations between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX). About one-quarter of consumer technology imports and one-third of our exports move through east coast and gulf ports each year.

As the contract expiration date of September 30, 2024, approaches, we urge your administration to work with both parties on ensuring that negotiations continue without any disruption to port operations. The potential for a coastwide strike beginning on October 1 would be economically catastrophic for many of our 1,300 members, 80% of whom are small businesses. More, a strike poses a severe threat to our nation's supply chain, which is still recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We commend your Administration's ongoing efforts to address supply chain chokepoints and previous interventions in similar labor disputes, such as the West Coast port labor negotiations and the Class I railroads' contract discussions. Your leadership in these matters was essential in preventing significant disruptions to our economy. The importance of keeping our ports open and trade flowing cannot be overstated. A strike at this critical juncture would have devastating consequences for American businesses, workers, and consumers, as we continue to combat inflation and strive for economic stability.

We respectfully request that your Administration take immediate action to resolve the dispute between the ILA and USMX. If necessary, we urge you to prevent a strike through your authority under the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, also known as the Taft-Hartley Act. Ensuring that both parties remain at the negotiating table and reach a new agreement is essential to maintaining the flow of goods and services that our economy depends on.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We stand ready to support your efforts in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gary Shapiro'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Gary' being more prominent than the last name 'Shapiro'.

Gary Shapiro
CEO
Consumer Technology Association