

REPLY TO:

- 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm
- 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145
- 111 7TH AVENUE, SE, BOX 13
SUITE 6800
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

REPLY TO:

- 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
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- 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- 201 WEST 2ND STREET
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DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817
(563) 322-4331
- 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

January 7, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

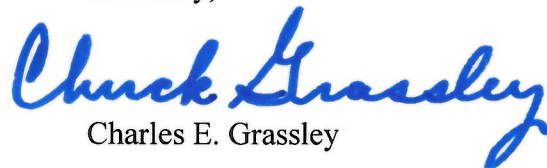
I urge you and your Administration to help resolve the ongoing labor dispute at West Coast ports. Numerous Iowa businesses who utilize those terminals to export U.S. goods have been negatively affected by their reduced productivity which is a direct result of ongoing contract discussions.

As you know, contract negotiations between the International Longshoremen Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association have been tense since the previous agreement expired in July of 2014. Unfortunately, businesses who utilize West Coast ports have seen their ability to competitively export goods to Asian markets diminish as they can no longer accurately predict shipping times or are forced to pay additional fees. Most recently, I have been informed that some railroad companies are no longer accepting shipments destined for West Coast ports until current backlogs are cleared.

West Coast ports serve as the primary intersection of trade between the U.S. and Asia. Some businesses that have spent years developing markets for their products in Asia are losing market share to foreign competitors as a result of this dispute. In 2002, when the ports shutdown, it was estimated our economy lost a billion dollars for every day the ports were closed. A shutdown today would be even more disruptive to our economy.

I respectfully ask that the Administration and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service work to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS