

Jay Timmons
President and CEO

Oct. 1, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The strike at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports threatens U.S. manufacturing competitiveness and the supply chains upon which Americans depend. Manufacturers have called on President Biden to use his authority under the Taft-Hartley Act to limit the disruption. We respectfully ask that you also urge him to step in. If the president fails to intervene, we urge Congress to act in the event of a prolonged disruption.

The East Coast and Gulf Coast ports are critical components of the supply chain. By our estimates, a strike would jeopardize \$2.1 billion in trade daily, and the total economic damage could reduce GDP by as much as \$5 billion per day, only some of which could be recovered as goods are rerouted and the shutdown ends.

Consumers and businesses are already feeling the impact of this strike. More than one-third of manufacturers previously cited supply chain issues as their primary business challenge in the National Association of Manufacturers' most recent industry survey, and the strike will significantly compound those challenges. In the days leading up to the strike, we heard from numerous manufacturers that are deeply concerned about the devastating effects of this stoppage. Critical components involved in the automobile sector, semiconductor chips production and pharmaceuticals are being impacted, in addition to essential consumer products such as food and personal care.

In 1947, Congress granted the president the ability to intervene when labor disagreements impinge on commerce and imperil national health and safety. By utilizing his authority under the Taft-Hartley Act, President Biden can bring the parties together and attempt to work out an agreement. This is not without precedent, as presidents have relied on these powers for port strikes as recently as 2002.

American businesses and families cannot afford this strike after years of inflation and supply chain disruptions. We ask that you join manufacturers in calling on President Biden to intervene. And should the impasse continue, we ask that you consider further actions to bring about a swift resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Timmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jay Timmons