

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker,

As Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness, and on behalf of its members, I want to express our sincere appreciation for your strong public support for the Committee's January 2016 port congestion recommendations. The port congestion and competitiveness initiatives that you have established at the Department have raised industry and public awareness of the recommendations, and are increasingly leading to their adoption by America's seaports and supply chain stakeholders. This is critical to ensure that we truly have 21st Century ports that help drive American competitiveness.

In particular, we thank you for your personal involvement in bringing seaports and their stakeholders together to find mutually beneficial ways to improve their efficiency, facilitate the flow of trade through our supply chains, and improve our Nation's competitiveness. This was a central point of our Committee's recommendations, and your advocacy on this issue has been crucial to industry impetus to implement them.

I want to make you aware that the Committee's recommendations and your advocacy for them have generated substantial discussion within the U.S. port and supply chain industry on ways to improve collaboration and information-sharing towards reducing congestion, facilitating cargo flow, and improving efficiency. Individual ports and stakeholders, including labor, ocean carriers, terminal operators, beneficial cargo owners, trucking and rail operators, and other port-related interests, are now becoming aware of the need to establish and engage in cooperative groups to find ways to achieve these goals and the action items contained within the recommendations.

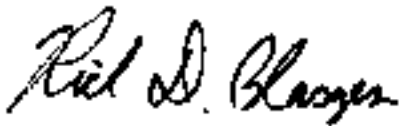
Notably, the Committee's recommendations are increasingly being shared by industry members at various forums, and are gaining momentum as a way forward towards addressing port congestion. In addition, we understand that individual industry members, particularly exporters and importers, are planning to use the recommendations in discussions with leaders in Washington and at the state level to discuss how to fund the needed infrastructure to ensure that our country and its commerce remain globally competitive.

It is vital that the momentum generated by your Department's support for these recommendations must not be lost when the next Administration arrives in January 2017. We need ongoing strong Federal support and industry-convening initiatives, in order to secure the continuing cooperation between the various stakeholders necessary for long-term success in achieving improvements in communication and business processes in addition to greater funding for last-mile connectors and infrastructure.

For this reason, I am writing to ask that you take the appropriate and necessary steps within your Department and the Administration to ensure that this crucial work continues to be pursued at the Federal level after the current Administration leaves office. We look forward to working with you to find ways to achieve this goal.

Thank you once again for your continuing support and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Rick D. Blasgen
President and CEO, Council of Supply
Chain Management Professionals
Chair, Advisory Committee on Supply
Chain Competitiveness



Mr. Rick Gabrielson
Vice President Transportation
Lowe's Companies, Inc
Chair, Freight Policy and Movement
Subcommittee