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PRESS RELEASE: February 19, 2015 10:50 AM EST

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Today 507 California agriculture and forest products companies and organizations delivered a letter to the California Congressional Delegation.

The slowdown and disruption of the West Coast ports, now in its 8th month, is having a devastating impact on California farms, processors, and all related business which depend on a healthy California agriculture sector. The injury is both immediate, with job losses already occurring, and permanent, as California agriculture is losing its foothold in the global markets, as foreign customers are seeking and finding other sources of food, farm and fiber.

These 507 signatories, ranging from California farmers, to California Chambers of Commerce, California agriculture associations ask the California Congressional Delegation to step forward, to bring the ILWU and the Pacific Maritime Association to the table to resolve the dispute, to work with the President to get the west coast ports working again.

Last week, over 600 farmers and agriculture interests in Oregon and Washington delivered similar letters to their Congressional delegations. As a result, the President received requests from Oregon and Washington Congressmen and Senators, urging strong action to eliminate the ongoing port strife. Immediately thereafter, the President sent the Secretary of Labor Tom Perez to San Francisco to initiate face-to-face negotiations.

We appreciate the actions already taken by some of the delegation, and ask the entire California delegation to redouble efforts to find a way to get the West Coast ports operating again.

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