



October 1, 2024

Bill Long Statement on the East and Gulf Coast Ports Strike

The supplier sector, together with its customers and many other important segments of the economy, is facing another critical supply chain challenge. The International Longshoreman's Association (ILA) have announced that they will strike the U.S. Maritime Alliance (USMX), which operates the east and gulf coast ports, on October 1, 2024. The ILA has stressed that its members will not continue to work without a contract while negotiations are ongoing.

This is in contrast to the west coast, where the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) worked without a contract for about a year in 2022-2023 as discussions were underway with the ports.

MEMA has joined a large coalition of companies, associations, and organizations in repeatedly raising concerns over the potential repercussions of the strike. Today, MEMA is once again lending its voice to a letter urging President Joe Biden and his administration to compel both sides to the negotiating table. This communication emphasizes the significant economic disruption that will occur if the two sides do not begin to resolve this impasse.

MEMA is treating this situation as a priority concern. Our Washington, D.C. team is engaging closely with sources in the government and with experts who are close to the situation and we will keep you updated with the latest developments.

I would ask you to please keep MEMA and our Washington team informed about what you are experiencing. We understand that plant disruptions and potential shutdowns may result in the upcoming weeks if this strike is not resolved. We will utilize this information to emphasize urgent action is vital and to urge members of Congress to get involved on a bipartisan basis to counter this crisis.

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