

United States Senate

October 20, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Given that the Department of Transportation oversees key pieces of the supply chain and that California is bearing the brunt of ongoing transportation and logistics bottlenecks, we write to offer our assistance in helping the Biden administration address the recent disruptions.

California plays a central role in the movement of goods throughout the United States. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach handle 40 percent of all container traffic that enters the United States, much of which is then distributed from warehouses in California's Inland Empire. Unprecedented consumer demand and the current unpredictability in the transportation supply chain have significantly increased container volumes at the Ports this year, leading to a backlog of cargo ships off the Southern California coast that, in addition to disrupting supply chains and causing numerous economic problems, may well have been responsible for the recent oil spill.

As California ports, including the Ports of Oakland and Hueneme, and their workers bolster their operations to help clear the shipping backlog, there remain additional transportation- and logistics-related challenges to moving these goods on our highways and railroads, including scarce freight rail and trucking capacity in certain regions, all of which is regulated by the Department of Transportation. Additionally, given the air quality and environmental impacts of increased port operations on nearby communities, it is essential that we advance the investments included in the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" and the "Build Back Better Act," including funding to support electrification and the deployment of zero-emission technology. Specifically, Section 110026 of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee title provides for robust funding for port infrastructure and supply chain resilience.

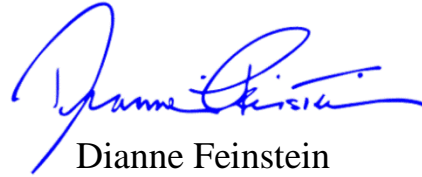
We appreciate the administration's ongoing efforts to engage public and private sector entities to address these current transportation bottlenecks and other

obstacles that could undermine our ongoing economic recovery. As the Biden administration's Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force continues its work to address the ongoing supply chain challenges, we look forward to working with you to alleviate the existing backlog and strengthen the resiliency of our supply chains.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator