

October 28, 2021

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal  
United States House of Representatives  
47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
108 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lowenthal,

I am writing on behalf of the National Industrial Transportation League (“NITL” or the “League”). Since our beginnings in 1907, the League has served as the shippers’ voice as we carry out our mission to advance the views of shippers on freight transportation issues. In this context, I wish to express our full support of your efforts to address the current ocean transportation network crisis and in particular your helpful recommendation that PierPass return to the economic incentive model that was at the core of the original program.

In May of 2018, the League expressed our concerns to the Federal Maritime Commission (“FMC”) regarding amendments to the West Coast MTO Agreement (Agreement No. 201143-017) that would, among other actions, replace the incentivizing fee that applied during peak times with a flat fee that would not differentiate between peak and off-peak activity. The League opposed the plan that would eliminate the incentive model, concerned over the potential of increased congestion during peak terminal operation periods, as contrary to the very purpose of the original PierPass program.

Considering the extraordinary activity that we have been experiencing in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach over the past 16 months and given that projections that show no reduction in volumes on the horizon, your recommendation that PierPass revert to an incentivizing program is a sensible one. Such a change can be expected to ease congestion during the peak hours, encourage off-peak use of the marine terminals by the trucking and shipping community, and bring the associated benefits not only to the cargo interests but also to the impacted local community.



THE  
NATIONAL  
INDUSTRIAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
LEAGUE

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The League and our members support your proposal and thank you for all your work to address the challenges affecting our ocean transportation network.

Sincerely,



E. Nancy O'Liddy  
Executive Director  
National Industrial Transportation League

CC:

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
The Honorable Dan Maffei, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission  
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chairwoman, Senate Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member, Senate Commerce Committee