

JOINT GLOBAL TRADE ASSOCIATION OPEN LETTER URGING MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY

February 8, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

As representatives of organizations whose members depend on safe and secure ocean shipping routes, we urgently call on countries to join, support, or align with the mission to support safe and secure maritime commerce in the Red Sea – such as that of Operation Prosperity Guardian, a multinational security initiative with at least 23 participating countries to date. Alignment around such efforts ensures that the world's governments can work together to defend maritime security not only in the Red Sea but also across the globe.

Maritime safety and security are vital for our collective industries, and the overall global economy. It is imperative that governments unite behind a zero-tolerance approach to deter attacks on commercial vessels and seafarers in the Red Sea, and anywhere in the world. The prosperity of millions of people who are employed in our industries and in the global maritime industry depends on safe and secure freedom of navigation.

The Red Sea is vital and moves 30 percent of the world's trade, including critical items like food and agricultural products, energy, clothing, shoes, electronics, and medicine. Terrorist attacks in the Red Sea imperil the safety and security of crew and cargo, which is now forcing carriers to divert to other routes.

These attacks have already caused upwards of \$80 billion in cargo to be diverted around the Cape of Good Hope. Traveling around the Cape of Good Hope adds at least 2-3 weeks of travel and hundreds of thousands in additional fuel and labor costs compared to traveling through the Suez Canal. This alternative route becomes even more challenging during the Southern Hemisphere winter months.

The consequences of these attacks extend beyond immediate financial losses. Route changes are causing port congestion, equipment shortages, and soaring shipping rates across the globe, all of which create inflationary impacts. Even shipping lanes on the other side of the world from the Red Sea are beginning to be adversely affected. The ripple effects in cost and capacity issues for the industries that depend upon safe and secure maritime commerce are incalculable, particularly since global transportation is already strained from reduced access to the drought-ridden Panama Canal.

This is truly a global problem that demands the participation and support of all nations that rely on global trade.

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It is imperative that countries that have not yet joined or aligned with this vital mission do so immediately. Widespread participation and cooperation among nations are essential to signal the importance of free and fair treatment in international waters.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council
Advanced Textiles Association
African Coalition for Trade
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
Airforwarders Association
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
Amcot
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)
American Bridal and Prom Industry Association
American Chemistry Council
American Circular Textiles (ACT)
American Down & Feather Council
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Pyrotechnics Association
AmericanHort
APICCAPS – Portuguese Footwear, Components, Leather Goods Manufacturers' Association
Assocalzaturifici Italiani – Italian Footwear Manufacturers' Association
Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers
Brazilian Textile and Apparel Industry Association (ABIT)
California Fashion Association
California Retailers Association
Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers Ltd
Cashmere & Camel Hair Manufacturers Institute (CCMI)
CEC- European Footwear Confederation
Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI)
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
Council of Fashion Designers of American (CFDA)
CSCMP - Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals
Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California
EURATEX - The European Apparel and Textile Confederation
Fashion and Accessories Shipper Association (FASA)

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Fashion and Textil Chamber - ANDI
Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association (FIATA)
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Gemini Shippers Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Green Coffee Association
Greenabl Shippers
Halloween & Costume Association (HCA)
Home Fashion Products Association
Illinois Soybean Growers
International Apparel Federation (IAF)
International Fresh Produce Association
International Housewares Association
International Wood Products Association
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA)
Leathergoods And Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB)
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
Maritime Association of the Port of NY & NJ
MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association
Minnesota Retailers Association
Missouri Retailers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Aquaculture Association
National Association of Beverage Importers (NABI)
National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ)
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
National Fisheries Institute
National Grain and Feed Association
National Retail Federation (NRF)
National Sporting Goods Association
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
Network Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors (NAUMD)
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association Inc
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
North American Export Grain Association
North American Renderers Association
Oregon Business & Industry
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assoc (PCC)
Pet Food Institute
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Polish Chamber of Shoe and Leather Industry (PIPS)

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PRINTING United Alliance
Promotional Products Association International
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Retail Council of Canada
Retail Council of New York State
Retail Innovation Club (RIC)
Retail Merchants of Hawaii
Retailers Association of Massachusetts
San Diego Customs Brokers Association
Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles (SMART) Association
Sewn Products Equipment & Suppliers of the Americas (SPESA)
Shipping Association of New York & New Jersey
Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)
South Dakota Soybean Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
Taiwan Textile Federation
Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
The Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP)
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Fashion Industry Association
U.S. Global Value Chain Coalition (USGVC)
Washington Retail Association
West Texas New Mexico Customs Brokers Association