

AgTC

Agriculture Transportation Coalition

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Press Release

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FMC Responds to Congress – Commits to Detention/Demurrage Relief

Over 140 Members of Congress, including the leadership of the House of Representatives' Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, asked the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission to explain how the Commission is addressing ocean carrier practices detrimental to US agriculture exports. These practices include carriers' refusal to carry export cargo, and detention and demurrage charges already deemed unreasonable under the Commission's Interpretive Rule of April, 2020.

[Click here](#) to see the response of all five Commissioners.

Peter Friedmann, Executive Director of the AgTC, welcomed the T & I Committee's bipartisan focus on the export crisis: "Our members, the nation's agriculture and forest products exporters and importers, are encouraged by the response to the Committee's timely directive, namely that the Commission is united behind Commissioner Dye's initiative, as it has the potential to significantly reduce unreasonable demurrage and detention charges. But the export transport crisis continues, with lost sales and other additional costs amounting to millions of dollars a week. Solutions are urgently required; we are continuing to work with Congress, USDA and the FMC to expedite relief."