

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We write to you today to urge you to expeditiously establish a bipartisan House Select Committee on the Supply Chain Crisis. At a time when global trade has been disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the American people deserve answers as to how our supply chains have broken down, what additional steps Congress can take to fix them, and how we can implement reforms that would prevent a similar crisis from occurring in the future.

For months, industry leaders have been highlighting the need to address critical shortages in our supply chain. One of the biggest issues faced is the lack of available chassis at essential ports such as the San Pedro Bay Port Complex, where container ships continue to face significant delays in wait times because terminals are full of boxes that truckers are unable to pick up due to chassis being unavailable.¹ Limits on when empty containers can be returned are also an important factor in these delays.

The supply chain challenges do not end at our ports; they have continued to devastate multiple logistics industries across our nation. The semiconductor chip shortage has cost multiple industries billions of dollars in revenue, slowing America's economic recovery and raising prices across the board.² In addition, rail yards are currently so congested that they have had to restrict shipments from West Coast seaports to Chicago,³ the American trucking industry faces a record-setting shortage of over 80,000 drivers⁴, and the warehouse industry has been operating above

¹ Berger, Paul. "A Simple Piece of Steel and Wheels Is Holding up the Global Supply Chain." The Wall Street Journal. Dow Jones & Company, October 28, 2021. https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-simple-piece-of-steel-and-wheels-is-holding-up-the-global-supply-chain-11635452843?mod=business_minor_pos19.

² Yang, Stephanie, and Jiyoung Sohn. "Global Chip Shortage 'Is Far from over' as Wait Times Get Longer." The Wall Street Journal. Dow Jones & Company, October 29, 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/global-chip-shortage-is-far-from-over-as-wait-times-get-longer-11635413402>.

³ Berger, Paul. "Supply-Chain Backlogs Turn Chicago into New Chokepoint." The Wall Street Journal. Dow Jones & Company, July 23, 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/supply-chain-backlogs-turn-chicago-into-new-chokepoint-11627064719>.

⁴ "ATA Chief Economist Pegs Driver Shortage at Historic High." American Trucking Associations. Accessed November 22, 2021. <https://www.trucking.org/news-insights/ata-chief-economist-pegs-driver-shortage-historic-high>.

capacity while having another record 490,000 job openings in July 2021⁵, creating delays for Americans along every step of the supply chain as they prepare for yet another holiday season. Small businesses in our districts have raised the significant challenges they face in stocking inventory at reasonable prices, which has forced them to reduce hiring and raise prices. These stories are all too common nationwide.

Clearly, this is a crisis that demands immediate attention beyond the steps that have already been taken. We respectfully request that you establish a Select Committee on the Supply Chain Crisis, with an equal number of Democratic and Republican members of Congress, which would be tasked with the specific duties of:

- Investigating the root causes of the supply chain crisis and its effect on each industry sector;
- Convening meetings and discussion sessions with relevant industry leaders; and
- Drafting and submitting a report to Congress based on the results of their investigation/discussions with recommendations on how to address our supply chain issues now and in the future.

A bipartisan Select Committee would have the opportunity to learn from a variety of stakeholders about the serious breakdowns in our supply chain, gather equal input from both sides of the aisle, and recommend meaningful solutions that will help industries get back to work and put goods back in Americans' hands in a timely manner and at just price points. Furthermore, a Select Committee can serve as the main platform to resolve jurisdictional differences and better coordinate efforts among congressional committees. Rather than a piecemeal approach from Congress, our country needs to implement a comprehensive approach to resolve our supply chain crisis. We urge you to consider putting a resolution on the House Floor to establish this Select Committee as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Member of Congress

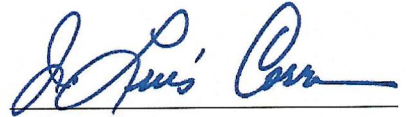


Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

⁵ Banker, Steve. "Warehouse Labor Woes Are Worse than Ever." Forbes. Forbes Magazine, October 12, 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevebanker/2021/10/12/warehouse-labor-woes-are-worse-than-ever/>.



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



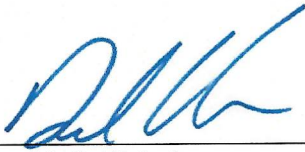
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



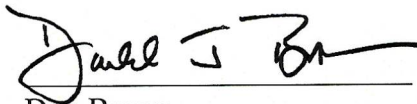
Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress