

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
December 13, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the Florida Congressional delegation representing our state's world-class network of 15 deepwater seaports, we stand ready to work with you and your administration to help provide important and much-needed alternatives to congested shipping routes around the country.

In successfully moving over 100 million tons of cargo and millions of cruise passengers annually, Florida's seaports currently support a vast array of global commercial industries. Working together with the federal government, Florida's seaports can save consumers money, support American jobs, grow our economy and offer near-term relief for our nation's current supply chain bottleneck affecting many aspects of our daily lives.

According to recent news reports, a back-up of almost 90 cargo ships waiting to enter either the Port of Long Beach or the Port of Los Angeles extended south almost to San Diego. This logjam meant cargo ships were waiting, on average, almost 17 days just to off-load their containers. We believe that our seaports are underutilized assets that can help reduce, if not eliminate, the delays plaguing our domestic supply chain and are asking you to work with us to help make this a reality.

In Florida, there are currently no delays at our ports in large part because many of them have been operating 24 hours-a-day for quite some time, while other ports around the country are just now announcing around-the-clock operations. With the holiday season upon us and the United States struggling to solve crippling congestion in our supply chain, our 15 ports and unique geographical location offer a more efficient alternative to certain West Coast ports.

Since 2019, the State of Florida has invested nearly \$1 billion in capacity-building projects for our ports and plans to spend \$200 million over the next few years to further enhance the state's inland freight-handling capacity. Furthermore, our ports have matched these investments and are committed to using additional resources to expand their services to meet demand. Consequently, our transportation infrastructure can handle increased freight traffic immediately and that capacity will only continue to grow.

Today, our ports stand ready to help alleviate current systemic freight backlogs all over the country and are well-equipped to handle additional capacity. In short, Florida is open for business.

Again, we welcome the opportunity to work with your administration to help take further advantage of Florida's 15 deepwater seaports and to serve as an important part of the solution to the ongoing supply chain crisis.

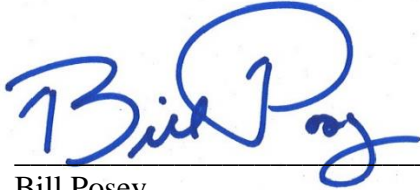
Sincerely,



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress




Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



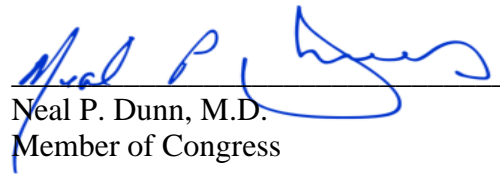
Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress



Maria Salazar
Member of Congress



Mike Waltz
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



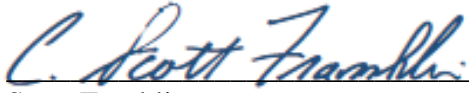
Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress




John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



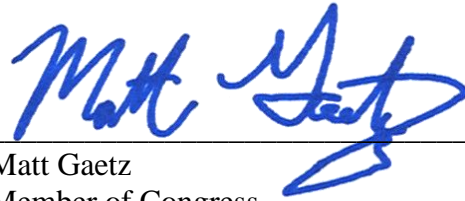
Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress