

# 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