February 18, 2015

Mr. Robert McEllrath                  Mr. James McKenna
President                             Chairman and C.E.O.
International Longshore              Pacific Maritime Association
Warehouse Union                       555 Market Street, Third Floor
1188 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor   San Francisco, California 94105
San Francisco, California 94109     fax: 415. 348.8392

Dear Mr. McEllrath and Mr. McKenna:

The Governors of the Western United States encourage you to immediately conclude the contract negotiations between the union and association that have dragged on for some nine months. Although you may regard your deliberations as a matter involving a private contract dispute, the implications of port operations on interstate commerce impact our entire region.

Western states are especially reliant on West Coast ports for the export of goods and merchandise. Slowdowns and lockouts at these facilities have already damaged many of our states’ industries, and continued uncertainty, congestion and delay could cripple our regional economy.

Good faith conversations, conducted with the same type of cooperation that unites Western Governors on a bipartisan basis, will be necessary to resolve this matter. We urge that course of action in the strongest possible terms.

Sincerely,

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
Chairman, WGA