

May 19, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz Chairman U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 167 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Maria Cantwell Ranking Member U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 511 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA), I am writing to express support for the bipartisan Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act (S. 337), introduced by your colleagues Senators Deb Fischer (R-NE) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), ahead of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's May 21, 2025 executive session.

As the only transportation trade association representing the combined interests of intermodal freight providers and customers, IANA represents more than 1,000 corporate members, including railroads, ocean carriers, ports, intermodal truckers and over-the-road highway carriers, intermodal marketing and logistic companies, and suppliers to the industry. IANA's associate (non-voting) members include shippers (defined as the beneficial owners of the freight to be shipped), academic institutions, government entities, and non-profit trade associations.

Intermodal supply chains are comprised of a broad network of multimodal transportation entities, which together support the seamless movement of more than 95 percent of manufactured goods globally and generate over \$59 billion in annual revenue. Due to the interconnected nature of the supply chain, fraudulent practices can have significant rippling effects across the U.S. economy. Freight fraud results in delivery delays and higher costs for legitimate entities, many of which are small businesses and include motor carriers, brokers, and freight forwarders. Ultimately, this results in increased prices for consumers.

IANA submitted testimony for the record in advance of your Committee's February 27, 2025 hearing titled, "Grand Theft Cargo: Examining the Costly Threat to Consumers and the U.S. Supply Chain." The testimony, which can be found <u>here</u>, further outlines the negative impacts felt by the intermodal industry when supply chain theft and fraud occur.

The Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act offers commonsense reforms to ensure the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has the necessary authority to identify bad actors before fraud occurs and act swiftly to penalize fraudulent companies. By strengthening enforcement of anti-fraud and consumer protection laws, the legislation will advance the U.S. economy by improving supply chain safety and efficiency, increasing accountability, supporting reputable businesses in the shipping industry, and protecting American families and consumers.



We urge the Committee to approve S.337 and would be pleased to serve as a resource on this important issue. I can be reached at <u>areinke@intermodal.org</u> or 301-982-3400.

Sincerely,

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Anne Reinke President and CEO Intermodal Association of North America

CC: Senator Deb Fischer & Senator Tammy Duckworth