



October 27, 2023

The Honorable Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Labour
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honorable Pablo Rodriguez
Minister of Transport
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister O'Regan and Minister Rodriguez:

I am writing to share our concerns about the labor issues that are now disrupting the international shipping channel between Canada and the United States. Ports of Indiana was founded in 1961 by our State Legislature and today operates three very successful ports, including Ports of Indiana-Burns Harbor, located on southern Lake Michigan. Our Burns Harbor port and the private terminals along Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline are vital to the overall Great Lakes economy.

A recent binational study found that Indiana produces 57 percent of the economic impacts generated by U.S. Great Lakes shipping and 42 percent by the combined U.S.-Canadian shipping. In addition, on Oct. 24, we released a new study that shows Indiana's Lake Michigan terminals handle 30 million tons of cargo per year and generate \$16.6 billion in annual economic impact.

Our public port and private terminals serve hundreds of companies and collectively ship millions of tons of cargo throughout the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. Without having ocean access via the Seaway, thousands of jobs are at risk and alternate, less-efficient transportation modes are now causing negative environmental and economic impacts throughout our region.

Equally important, Burns Harbor is representative of the growth-minded culture prevalent at ports throughout the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway. Our industry is built on trust, reliability, and a willingness to go the extra mile for our customers and communities. This labor disruption is causing irreparable damage to our Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway industry as long-term customers are now being forced to look for alternative supply-chain solutions. Shipping through our binational Seaway will now be considered less reliable and extremely risky for their future business ventures.

While we are just one port, Burns Harbor's annual economic impact exceeds \$4.6 billion, and our operations support more than 28,000 jobs. Our customers have informed us that at least 12 ships have been delayed or diverted so far, and these businesses are actively coordinating with alternative rail, truck, and barge transportation options to make sure their crucial cargoes are delivered to their customers.

For the sake of the entire Great Lakes/St. Lawrence region, and its thousands of workers and hundreds of families who rely on the Seaway for economic opportunity and stability, I respectfully urge you to take immediate measures to resolve this labor action as quickly as possible. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jody Peacock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jody Peacock
Chief Executive Officer
Ports of Indiana