

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. _____

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HUTCHINSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate relating to a dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Whereas the ongoing dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, relating to a collective bargaining agreement, has shut down 29 West Coast ports;

Whereas this dispute has sent harmful economic reverberations far beyond the shipping industry, the West Coast, or even the borders of the United States;

Whereas 7 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product travels through those ports and the flow of goods in and out of those ports is critical to the operation of businesses, farms, and factories, and the business of retailers and consumers, all across the United States;

Whereas the stay of all West Coast transport by sea has already prevented farmers from selling their crops, shut down manufacturing plants, idled trucks and trains, and precluded consumers from purchasing goods;

Whereas, due to the interruption of the flow of commerce caused by the dispute, thousands of persons in the United States have been laid off and are living without a paycheck through no fault of their own;

Whereas the United States is already enduring an economic recession and high unemployment; and

Whereas if the shutdown of those ports continues, the shutdown will present a serious threat to the Nation's safety and health: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

3 It is the sense of the Senate that—

4 (1) the Pacific Maritime Association and the
5 International Longshore and Warehouse Union
6 should enter into mediation to resolve the dispute,
7 adopt 24-hour extensions of the expired collective
8 bargaining agreement, and end the current lockout;
9 and

10 (2) if the Pacific Maritime Association and the
11 International Longshore and Warehouse Union do
12 not reach a settlement or reopen the ports through
13 that mediation during a reasonable period (as deter-
14 mined by the President), the President should ap-
15 point a board of inquiry, to begin the emergency dis-

1 pute-settling procedure under the Labor-Manage-
2 ment Relations Act, 1947.