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Dear Founding Members of Digital Container Shipping Association (DCSA),

The undersigned organizations represent U.S. businesses engaged in the ocean container transportation of goods, including importers, exporters, non-vessel operating common carriers, freight forwarders, customs brokers, trade organizations, and other concerned parties. As your collective clientele, we support DCSA and its mission to establish IT industry standards that help realize the long-standing goals of interoperability. Specifically, DCSA's **purpose** – to facilitate digital interconnectivity and seamless data communication that **anyone** engaged in the industry can leverage - is of utmost importance.

In recent engagement with the [Federal Maritime Commission National Shipper Advisory Committee \(FMC NSAC\)](#), DCSA provided information on its current and upcoming standards. The signatories of this letter concluded that the work of the DCSA members aligns with the Data Recommendations as submitted to the Federal Maritime Commission on December 12, 2022, by the FMC NSAC. This alignment validates DCSA's **purpose** to ensure digital interconnectivity and to make seamless data communication accessible and available to any party in the supply chain.

We applaud the work of DCSA and its members and recommend continued efforts in supporting data transparency throughout the ocean shipping process. Furthermore, we have been told and expect that the goal of these standards is to create data synergies and not a path toward monetization.

In particular, we welcome [the recent publication of the draft version of the Commercial Schedules standard](#). The initiative has been discussed by the signatories of this letter and we determined that the standard is foundational for achieving digital interconnectivity and seamless data communication for container shipping. Alignment of schedules streamlines and provides visibility to your customers throughout the journey of a container. Success of these programs requires ongoing stakeholder engagement with the shipper community.

We therefore ask that your company commits the necessary resources to swiftly finalize and reach full deployment of the DCSA Commercial Schedules standard before the end of 2024. We believe it is essential that the standard is implemented fully by all DCSA members to allow US businesses engaged in ocean container transportation to benefit from the DCSA standards.

Respectfully,

A Customs Brokerage, Inc.

Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)

Alliance for Chemical Distribution

American Apparel & Footwear Association

American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)

American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA)

American Home Furnishings Alliance

Boshart Trucking, Inc.

BOSSCO Trading

CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry

C.H. Powell Company

Chamber of Marine Commerce

Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association (CRCBFA)

Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)

Consumer Brands Association

Customs Brokers and International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State (CBIFFAWS)

Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California (CBFANC)

Florida Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association, Inc. (FCBF)

Foreign Trade Association

Harbor Trucking Association

Houston Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders (HCBFFA)

Imperial Freight Brokers

Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC)

International Fresh Produce Association

International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)

INTRAL Corporation

Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association (LACBFFA)

Louis Dreyfus Company Cotton

Mallory Alexander International Logistics

Mohawk Global

National Association for Industrial and Office Parks – SoCal Chapter (NAIOP SoCal)

National Cotton Council

National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)

National Retail Federation (NRF)

New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association, Inc.

Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association (PCC)

San Diego Customs Brokers Association (SDCBA)

Specialized Furniture Carriers

The National Industrial Transportation League (NITL)

United State Forage Export Council

USA Rice Federation

VORTO

WILDCAT Logistics

Wine and Spirits Shippers Association