

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-2751

Dear Governor Ivey:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Alabama. Currently, Alabama and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Alabama's waterways and onshore at Alabama's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Alabama's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Alabamians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Scott Harris, M.D.
State Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Governor
State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Alaska. Currently, Alaska and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Alaska's waterways and onshore at Alaska's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Alaska's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

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We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Alaskans and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Adam Crum
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Governor
State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street, Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; and Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Arkansas. Currently, Arkansas and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Arkansas' waterways and onshore at Arkansas' ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Arkansas' and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and

recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Arkansans and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: José R. Romero, M.D.
Secretary
Arkansas Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State Capitol
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in California. Currently, California and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on California's waterways and onshore at California's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on California's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Californians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Tomás J. Aragón, MPH, M.D., Dr. PH
Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Florida. Currently, Florida and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Florida's waterways and onshore at Florida's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Florida's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Floridians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Scott A. Rivkees, M.D.
Surgeon General
Florida Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable David Ige
Governor
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Ige:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Hawaii. Currently, Hawaii and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Hawaii's waterways and onshore at Hawaii's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Hawaii's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Hawaiians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Elizabeth Char, M.D.
Director
Hawaii Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor
State Capitol
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Illinois. Currently, Illinois and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Illinois' waterways and onshore at Illinois' ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Illinois' and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Illinoisans and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Ngozi O. Ezike, M.D.
Director
Illinois Department of Public Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor
State House
Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797

Dear Governor Holcomb:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Indiana. Currently, Indiana and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Indiana's waterways and onshore at Indiana's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Indiana's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Indianans and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Kris Box, M.D., FACOG
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Andy Beshear
Governor
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; and Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Kentucky. Currently, Kentucky and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the commonwealth's and nation's supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Kentucky's waterways and onshore at Kentucky's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the commonwealth, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Kentucky's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline

maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Kentuckians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Steven J. Stack, M.D., MBA, FACEP
Commissioner
Kentucky Department for Public Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor
P. O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Edwards:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Louisiana. Currently, Louisiana and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Louisiana's waterways and onshore at Louisiana's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Louisiana's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

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Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Michigan. Currently, Michigan and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Michigan's waterways and onshore at Michigan's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Michigan's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to

deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Michiganders and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Robert Gordon
Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Mike Parson
Governor
Capitol Building
Room 218, P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; and Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Missouri. Currently, Missouri and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Missouri's waterways and onshore at Missouri's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Missouri's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and

recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Missourians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Randall W. Williams, M.D., FACOG
Director
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Tate Reeves
Governor
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Reeves:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Mississippi. Currently, Mississippi and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Mississippi's waterways and onshore at Mississippi's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Mississippi's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to

deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Mississippians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Thomas E. Dobbs III, M.D., MPH
State Health Officer
Mississippi State Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor
The State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in New Jersey. Currently, New Jersey and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on New Jersey's waterways and onshore at New Jersey's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on New Jersey's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of New Jerseyans and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in New York. Currently, New York and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on New York's waterways and onshore at New York's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on New York's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to

deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of New Yorkers and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Howard Zucker, M.D.
 Commissioner
 New York State Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor
77 South High Street
30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Ohio. Currently, Ohio and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Ohio's waterways and onshore at Ohio's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Ohio's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Ohioans and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Stephanie McCloud
Director
Ohio Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Oregon. Currently, Oregon and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Oregon's waterways and onshore at Oregon's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Oregon's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Oregonians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Patrick Allen
Director
Oregon Health Authority

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Main Capitol Building
Room 225
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Pennsylvania. Currently, Pennsylvania and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the commonwealth's and nation's supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Pennsylvania's waterways and onshore at Pennsylvania's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the commonwealth, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Pennsylvania's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Pennsylvanians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Dr. Rachel Levine
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Bill Lee
Governor
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

Dear Governor Lee:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; and Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Tennessee. Currently, Tennessee and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Tennessee's waterways and onshore at Tennessee's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Tennessee's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline

maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Tennesseans and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Lisa Piercey, M.D., MBA, FAAP
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Texas. Currently, Texas and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Texas' waterways and onshore at Texas' ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Texas' and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to

deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Texans and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: John William Hellerstedt, M.D.
Commissioner
Texas Department of State Health Services

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor
State Capitol, Third Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Virginia. Currently, Virginia and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the commonwealth's and nation's supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Virginia's waterways and onshore at Virginia's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the commonwealth, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Virginia's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to

deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Virginians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: M. Norman Oliver, M.D., MA
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Washington. Currently, Washington and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Washington's waterways and onshore at Washington's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Washington's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to

deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Washingtonians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Umair A. Shah, M.D., MPH
Secretary
Washington State Department of Health

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals; and the American Pilots' Association, the national association for the maritime piloting profession, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Wisconsin. Currently, Wisconsin and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on Wisconsin's waterways and onshore at Wisconsin's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on Wisconsin's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Pilots go aboard all foreign vessels transiting our waterways and, since the countries of origin for the crews of these vessels span the globe, are subject to a high risk of COVID-19 exposure. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to

deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of Wisconsinites and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Andrea Palm
Secretary-Designee
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Jim Justice
Governor
1900 Kanawha Street
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators, the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry; the American Association of Port Authorities, the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas; and Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc., the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals, we write to urge you to prioritize frontline maritime transportation workers in the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in West Virginia. Currently, West Virginia and other states are rightly working to vaccinate front-line health care workers, who run the greatest risk of exposure to the coronavirus, and people in congregate care facilities, who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and complications. As you make plans to begin expanding vaccine access to essential workers, we encourage you to consider the critical importance of the maritime industry to the state and national supply chain.

The American women and men who work onboard vessels on West Virginia's waterways and onshore at West Virginia's ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities that enable other essential workers to do their jobs, including the food products and consumer goods that stock store shelves, the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that hospitals and clinics rely on, the energy cargoes that power the state, and the manufacturing inputs that keep its factories up and running. Their ability to do their jobs safely and continuously have a direct and significant impact on West Virginia's and the nation's ability to weather this dual public health and economic crisis.

The work environment of mariners and port and terminal workers makes it particularly important that they receive priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Many mariners live aboard the vessels on which they work, in very close quarters where COVID-19 can spread quickly. Similarly, port and terminal workers routinely interact with mariners and with one another in close proximity and are susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks. The maritime industry has put in place procedures to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, including screening and testing workers, mandating masking, and frequently sanitizing common areas and surfaces. Notwithstanding these efforts, the inherent risks of COVID-19 transmission in congregate live-work environments and on job sites where social distancing is infeasible increase the urgency of providing protection to this segment of the country's frontline essential workforce.

We thank you for your consideration of our request to prioritize the vaccination of mariners and port and terminal workers, and offer your Administration our assistance to develop a strategy to deliver vaccines to this important population, including identifying and communicating with qualifying individuals. The maritime industry is proud to support the nation's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate your support for our frontline

maritime transportation workers, who maintain the integrity of the supply chain on behalf of West Virginians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Carpenter
President & CEO
The American Waterways Operators

Christopher J. Connor
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities

Captain Jorge J. Viso
President
American Pilots' Association

Aimee Andres
Executive Director
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.

CC: Bill J. Crouch
Secretary
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources