



National Association of Home Builders

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Government Affairs

James W. Tobin III
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February 1, 2022

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dusty Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Garamendi and Johnson:

On behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I write to share with you our strong support for H.R. 4996, the *Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021* (OSRA21). We believe the reforms included in OSRA21 will help address longstanding, systemic supply chain and port disruption issues which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ongoing supply chain challenges facing the nation's importers and exporters are having a significant effect on our building material supply chain. From record high lumber prices to severe shortages of myriad building materials, the result has been lengthy construction delays or postponement of projects, along with dramatic price increases. This is further harming housing affordability at a time when we already face an ongoing housing affordability crisis. Until we address all of the underlying causes of the crisis, millions of households are denied the American dream of homeownership, and millions more are rent burdened.

At the core of today's building materials supply chain issues are two fundamental problems – barriers to trade and challenges associated with moving goods to their final destination. The *Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021* will provide critical modernization to key provisions of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, which has not been updated in over two decades. These badly needed improvements will go a long way to ensuring needed building materials reach job sites across the country in a timely manner and as cost-effectively as possible.

We thank you for your leadership in working to address ongoing supply chain disruptions and port congestion issues. Your efforts will help ensure home builders have the tools and materials they need to make the American dream of homeownership a reality for all Americans. With H.R. 4996 successfully passed out of the House, we look forward to working with you to ensure this important legislation is considered in the Senate.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James W. Tobin III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James W. Tobin III