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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0544
September 6, 2016

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker,

We are writing to you concerning the South Korean freight shipping company Hanjin's bankruptcy. While Hanjin's collapse poses many long-term global economic challenges, the ships anchored outside the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and other West Coast ports are an immediate problem that needs to be addressed.

The ports will not unload them because they have been told that they will not get paid. These ships need to be unloaded--each day that they sit there our local workers and businesses lose money.

As the Co-Chair and members of the Congressional PORTS Caucus, we call on you to step in and start discussions with Hanjin and South Korea to come to an agreement that guarantees our ports and our workers will be paid and these ships will be unloaded.

Just as federal help was necessary for talks between ILWU and PMA, we need strong federal leadership to reach a solution in this situation. This crisis may be complicated, but US workers and their livelihood are at the middle of it. As the nation just celebrated Labor Day and the workers who keep our economy running, we urge the Obama Administration to act to ensure that our workers are paid and that our economy is protected.

Our ports are the backbone of our nation's economy. We are entering peak season-- when the entire shipping industry must work together to get gifts on shelves for holiday shoppers-- our priority should be getting these ships unloaded.

Sincerely,

Alan Lowenthal

John Forman

Loetta Sanchez
