



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Peter A. DeFazio
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Katherine W. Dedrick
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Sam Graves
Ranking Member

Paul J. Sass
Republican Staff Director

February 1, 2022

The Honorable John D. Porcari
Port Envoy to the White House Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force
National Economic Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Porcari,

I write to request that you brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure no later than February 16, 2022, regarding your role on the White House's Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force (Task Force) and the activities undertaken by the Task Force.

On June 8, 2021, the Administration announced the establishment of a new Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force (Task Force) to:

provide a whole-of-government response to address near-term supply chain challenges to the economic recovery. The Task Force will be led by the Secretaries of Commerce, Transportation, and Agriculture and will focus on areas where a mismatch between supply and demand has been evident: homebuilding and construction, semiconductors, transportation, and agriculture and food. The Task Force will bring the full capacity of the federal government to address near-term supply/demand mismatches. It will convene stakeholders to diagnose problems and surface solutions—large and small, public or private—that could help alleviate bottlenecks and supply constraints.¹

The efficient movement of goods, people, and services through our Nation's transportation networks is critical for our economy. With rising inflation currently at seven

¹ *Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force to Address Short-Term Supply Chain Discontinuities*, THE WHITE HOUSE (June 8, 2021), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/08/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-supply-chain-disruptions-task-force-to-address-short-term-supply-chain-discontinuities>.

percent – a 39-year high – our economy is in turmoil.² While, the Committee has heard from many entities about efforts to address bottlenecks in the supply chain, we have not heard directly from the Administration.³ Public outreach and statements aside, our Members need to know how you and the Task Force are working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to alleviate this crisis, while at the same time working to implement the recently enacted *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA, P.L. 117-58). Given your position as Port Envoy, and your recent statement from the White House press podium that “it’s hard to tell if the supply chain problems have peaked,”⁴ Committee members would welcome the opportunity to be updated on your activities and discuss ongoing supply chain challenges.

Communication is critical to address these complex supply chain problems together; however, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has not received information on any of the Task Force’s efforts. This includes information on how the Task Force leverages existing DOT programs, works with agencies which have the statutory authority to establish and implement programs, incorporates and responds to stakeholder outreach, meets projected timelines, and uses data to respond to challenges.

This briefing is critical to understanding the whole-of-government response, and I look forward to hearing from you about scheduling the Task Force briefing by February 16, 2022. In order to expedite and assist with scheduling, please contact my Staff Director, Paul J. Sass, at [REDACTED] or 202-225-9446.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Ranking Member

Cc: The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

² *Consumer Press Index Summary*, U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, (Jan. 12, 2022), available at https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi_nr0.htm; see also Jeanna Smialek and Ana Swanson, *Consumer prices popped again in December, casting a shadow over the economy*, N.Y. TIMES, (Jan. 12, 2022), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/12/business/economy/cpi-inflation-december-2021.html>.

³ *Industry and Labor Perspectives: A Further Look at North American Supply Chain Challenges: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Transp. and Infrastructure*, 117th Cong. (2021).

⁴ *Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki and Port Envoy to the White House Supply Chain Task Force John Porcari*, THE WHITE HOUSE (January 5, 2022), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2022/01/05/press-briefing-by-press-secretary-jen-psaki-and-port-envoy-to-the-white-house-supply-chain-task-force-john-porcari-january-5-2022/>.