

# WEST COAST REFUSE & RECYCLING COALITION

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January 30, 2015



Trish Roath  
Executive Director  
California Refuse  
Recycling Council  
1121 L Street, Suite 505  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916/444-2772  
Fax: 916/442-0623  
email: trish@crrcnorth.org

Ms. Maia Bellon, Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Mr. Dick Pedersen, Director  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
811 SW 6th  
Portland, OR 97204



Kristan Mitchell  
Executive Director  
Oregon Refuse &  
Recycling Association  
PO Box 2186  
Salem, OR 97308-2186

Phone: 503/588-1837  
Fax: 503/399-7784  
email: kristanm@orra.net

Ms. Caroll Mortensen, Director  
California Department of Resources, Recovery and Recycling (CalRecycle)  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 4025  
Sacramento CA 95812-4025

*Re: Interruptions at West Coast Port Terminal Operations*

Dear Directors Bellon, Pedersen, and Mortensen:

The West Coast Refuse and Recycling Council (WCRRC), comprised of the undersigned associations, are writing to express our deep concern over the ongoing interruptions at West Coast port terminal operations and to seek your assistance to encourage a timely and mutually acceptable resolution under the auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), who have recently agreed to assist the parties with contract negotiations surrounding the labor dispute.

It is our understanding that labor contract negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) began in the spring of 2014. Unfortunately, it appears little if any progress has occurred in resolving the dispute, resulting in a significant backlog of recycled material and feedstocks destined for export.

The continued slowdown at West Coast port terminals is having serious implications upon our industry's ability to fulfill our contractual obligations designed to achieve maximum recycling and waste diversion goals for the municipalities we serve. Without immediate relief, we may soon be forced to begin redirecting this material to extended storage and disposal, undermining the very goal of our material management



Brad Lovaas  
Washington Refuse &  
Recycling Association  
4160 6th Avenue SE, Suite 205  
Lacey, WA 98503

Phone: 360/943-8859  
Fax: 360/357-6958  
email: brad@wrwa.org

Representing the Solid Waste and Recycling Companies of the West Coast

Letter from WCRRC to Directors Bellon, Pedersen and Mortensen  
Re: Interruptions at West Coast Port Terminal Operations  
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operations. As this issue is completely out of our control, we respectfully request suspension of any regulatory penalties that might otherwise occur for extended storage and/or disposal of recycling materials that may occur as a result of this slowdown.

We respectfully request that you communicate to Ms. Allison Beck, Acting Director of the FMCS, the need for her agency to act quickly and aggressively toward an expedited resolution to the current impasse that is affecting our industry.

Sincerely,



Brad Lovaas, Executive Director  
Washington Refuse & Recycling Association



Kristan Mitchell, Executive Director  
Oregon Refuse & Recycling Association



Trish Roath, Executive Director  
California Refuse Recycling Council

cc: The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor, State of Washington  
The Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor, State of Oregon  
The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
WCRRC Board of Directors