July 18, 2022

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi,

The International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) is pleased to offer it endorsement of H. R. 8243, the American Port Access Privileges Act.

IFPA is the largest and most diverse international association serving the entire fresh produce and floral supply chain and the only to seamlessly integrate world-facing advocacy and industry-facing support. We exist to bring the industry together to create a vibrant future for all. We grow our member’s prosperity by conducting advocacy; connecting people and ideas; and offering guidance that allows us all to act with purpose and confidence.

The provision of the legislation most important to our industry establishing a secondary berthing preference for vessels that provide service to multiple ports in the United States and those with significant American exports of perishable fresh produce. By providing preferential berthing to these vessels, Congress will be rewarding those ocean carriers that serve both importers and American exporters by prioritizing them for unloading and loading at our nation’s ports. We also support provisions that would incentivize ocean carriers to make second-leg voyages to the ports that are key to domestic exporters of fresh produce.

Given the often-fierce competition for port access and space, it is vital that perishable goods such as fresh produce move quickly and in an unencumbered manner to their destinations abroad. As such IFPA welcomes this legislation and looks forward to working with your office to achieving its passage.

Sincerely,

Robert Guenther
Chief Public Policy Officer
International Fresh Produce Association

Cc: Representative Jim Costa
    Representative Mike Thompson (CA-5)