

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2013

Mr. Tony Flagg
President
United Grain Corp.
900 Washington Street, Suite 700
Vancouver, WA 98660

Mr. Robert McEllrath
President
International Longshore Warehouse Union
1188 Franklin Street, 4th floor
San Francisco, CA 94109

Mr. Serge Schoen
CEO
Louis Dreyfus Commodities
Wesblaak 92
3012 KM Rotterdam
Netherlands

Mr. Tom Hammond
President & CEO
Columbia Grain
1300 SW 5th Ave Suite 2929
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to urge you to return to the negotiating table to reach a fair and amicable agreement between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the remaining Northwest Grain Handlers Association members.

It is our understanding that Temco, a joint venture of Cargill and CHS Inc. and a member of the Northwest Grain Handlers Association, has successfully negotiated an agreement with the ILWU that was agreeable to both parties. We hope this agreement can be viewed as a framework from which the remaining Northwest Grain Handlers Association members and ILWU can build a cooperative dialogue and continue their negotiations.

This collective bargaining agreement is not only important for the health, safety and economic well-being of a number of our constituents that work as grain handlers, but is important for the functionality of companies, ports and the economy of the Pacific Northwest. The grain exported from Northwest ports account for one quarter of U.S. grain exports.

Again, we urge both sides to return to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith to resolve the remaining issues in these contract talks.

Sincerely,



Senator Patty Murray



Senator Maria Cantwell