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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Ocean Shipping Act Reform Act Signing Is A Big Win For American Workers, Farms, and Supply Chain**

**MODESTO, CA** - Aubrey Bettencourt, President/CEO of the Almond Alliance of California, will be attending the signing of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act on Thursday, June 16, 2022.

"After a year and a half of supply chain problems, a massive trade imbalance, challenges at ports this bipartisan and bicameral legislation will take key steps toward easing current supply chain challenges by expanding the authority of the Federal Maritime Commission to promote U.S. exports through a maritime system that is transparent, efficient, and fair," said Aubrey Bettencourt. "The Ocean Shipping Reform Act will bring American Grown goods to market, preserve America's reputation as a trade partner, and show that we can come together to meet challenges."

After two years of effort by agriculture exporters, retailers, and others, Congress approved S. 3580, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022, sending it to the President for his signature.

Specifically, this legislation:

- Expands safeguards to combat retaliation and deter unfair business practices;
- Clarifies prohibited carrier practices on detention and demurrage charges and vessel space accommodation;
- Establishes a shipping exchange registry through the FMC;
- Expands penalty authority to include a refund of charges; and
- Increases efficiency of the detention and demurrage complaint process.

Bettencourt continued, "The Ocean Shipping Reform Act is a big win for American workers, farms, businesses, and supply chain, providing the tools to modernize our policies and practices to support American exports and our reputation as a worldwide trade partner. Thank you to the California delegation and President Biden for your continued leadership."

To schedule an interview with Aubrey Bettencourt during her visit to Washington, D.C. for the bill signing, please contact Hector Barajas at hector@amplify360inc.com or Mike Vallante at mike@amplify360inc.com.

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*The Almond Alliance (AA) is a trusted non-profit organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of the California almond community. California almonds generate more than \$21 billion in economic revenue and directly contribute more than \$11 billion to the state's total economy. California's top agricultural export, almonds create approximately 104,000 jobs statewide, over 97,000 in the Central Valley, which suffers from chronic unemployment. The AA is dedicated to educating state legislators, policymakers, and regulatory officials about the California almond community. As a membership-based organization, our members include almond processors, hullers/shellers, growers, and allied businesses. Through workshops, newsletters, conferences, social media, and personal meetings, AA works to raise awareness, and knowledge and provide a better understanding of the scope, size, value, and sustainability of the California almond community. For more information on the Almond Alliance, visit <https://almondalliance.org/> or check out the Almond Alliance on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.*