



United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd.

STATEMENT FROM USMX

LYNDHURST, NJ (DECEMBER 20, 2024) – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“American ports serve as a conduit to the global economy. They are essential for American businesses—from grocery stores, manufacturers and retailers, who import goods from international suppliers, to exporters with natural resources, agricultural products and American-manufactured goods—all of whom need efficient and affordable access to global markets.

A new Master Contract is essential to keeping our ports open and our supply chains strong. That is why USMX has tentatively agreed to a 62% wage increase for ILA members over the next six years, contingent upon finalizing all outstanding issues—a historic leading wage increase that showcases our commitment to American workers.

Beyond the wage increase, central to successfully reaching a new long-term agreement is how we can also strengthen the ability of USMX members to make critical investments in technology and infrastructure to densify and improve the safety, productivity and efficiency of our ports, which provides a direct benefit to both ILA members and businesses in nearly every sector of the U.S. economy. American businesses rely on continuous improvements at our ports to help streamline their supply chains through expediting cargo turn times, attracting more vessel calls, and increasing overall capacity to meet their growing business demands on the export or import side.

We have been clear that this can, and will, be done in a way that not only protects jobs, but adds new jobs as our operations expand.

Evolving port operations and increasing wages and jobs for the ILA are not mutually exclusive. Modern technology is proven to dramatically increase the amount of cargo that can be moved through a port annually. ILA members make more money when they move more cargo and ports need to hire more workers to manage that growth.

Ultimately, these improvements serve to bolster U.S. industries by creating supply chains that are more resilient and efficient, which keeps cargo moving and helps manage costs and improves reliability for American companies that depend upon our operations every minute of every day.”

###