



September 9, 2021

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528-0525

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Brian Deese
Director
National Economic Council
1650 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Secretaries Raimondo and Mayorkas, Director Deese, and Administrator Regan,

Thank you for your efforts to address America's unprecedented supply chain disruptions. The situation facing our nation is unparalleled in modern times and shows no indication of easing soon. Your actions to protect public health and safety as well as economic and national security interests are vital. In that regard, we wish to inform you that the roofing industry is in immediate need of a comprehensive federal approach to address devastating supply chain shortages of materials that began during the pandemic and have been greatly exacerbated by natural disasters and most recently Hurricane Ida. Without federal assistance, the key material components needed to provide shelter to hundreds of thousands of Americans and businesses could be delayed for many months. Our industry is vital to addressing current housing shortages and to repair, build and maintain schools, hospitals, and other critical infrastructure buildings but these efforts are in jeopardy as materials are increasingly constrained.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of roofing professionals worldwide. NRCA's nearly 4,000 member companies represent all segments of the industry, including contractors, manufacturers, distributors, consultants, and other employers in all 50 states and internationally. NRCA members are typically small, privately held companies with the average member employing 45 people and attaining sales of \$4.5 million per year. The U.S. roofing industry is an essential \$100 billion+ sector with nearly 1 million employees that provides critical materials and services to ensure home and business safety.

When the economy shut down in March 2020 due to COVID-19, many manufacturers logically paused building inventory of some materials because it was unclear how the economy would proceed in the coming months, but demand for roofing materials increased dramatically and shortages quickly occurred in the marketplace. These shortages have grown since then and are exacerbated by the fact that the materials used for roofing products are also used by consumer product industries where demand skyrocketed as individuals were locked down in their homes. This unprecedented demand is furthering shortages of materials needed for key components to

secure and safeguard hospitals, schools, government and military buildings, manufacturing and logistics facilities and other community resources.

Natural disasters have also contributed greatly to the challenge of sourcing necessary supplies. Many materials used in roofing insulation, for example, come from Texas, Louisiana, and are imported from abroad. Texas had a historic ice storm that shut down production for nearly a month and Louisiana has now been hit with Hurricane Ida. Several critical plants in Louisiana have been shut down by Ida and it could be weeks until they resume production. Louisiana also hosts a vital seaport that is used to import necessary materials. Delays at this port have only exacerbated the strain on getting materials to manufacturers.

Given the unprecedented severity of the supply chain issues, we request immediate federal assistance with increasing the speed and capacity at our nation's ports, a fast restart of production located in disaster areas and other assistance that may be identified in the coming days or weeks. Many of these challenges were created not by one single issue, but a cascading chain of events beyond the control of our industry. Providing urgently needed repairs to many homes, schools, hospitals, and other vital buildings in many parts of the nation depend on swift action of both the private and public sectors working together to address this emergency.

Thank you again for your efforts to address America's critical supply shortages and address these issues for the roofing industry, other sectors of employers and consumers. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you and your team in more depth and develop solutions to direct scarce, desperately needed materials to the roofing industry so it can provide vital economic and life-sustaining shelter to the businesses and citizens across the country. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Duane Musser, NRCA's vice president of government relations, at 202-546-7584 or dmusser@nrca.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reid Ribble". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Reid" and last name "Ribble" clearly distinguishable.

Reid Ribble
Chief Executive Officer