



Agriculture Transportation Coalition

"The principal voice of agriculture exporters in transportation policy"

www.agtrans.org | info@agtrans.org

38th Annual Meeting

The Largest Annual Gathering of Ag Shippers Sourcing and Delivering to Foreign Markets

"Almost Final" AGENDA

Times are set, but global changes, changing tariffs and carrier deployment mean changing **up-to-the-minute** program.

May 18-21, 2026

Greater Tacoma Convention Center

Register

SUNDAY, MAY 17

7:00 pm - Early Bird No Host Gathering, *Marriott Tacoma Downtown Lobby Bar*

MONDAY, MAY 18

All Day is set aside for Annual Meeting Sponsors to make arrangements to meet with Customers.

1:00 – 4:00 pm – Registration

5:00 pm – OPENING RECEPTION

7:00 pm - NO-HOST EARLY BIRD GATHERING *Marriott Tacoma Downtown Lobby*

TUESDAY, MAY 19

6:30 am -- 8th ANNUAL WINE & SPIRITS SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION RUN-WALK

All are welcome, prizes for all – from slow walkers to fast runners!

Meet in *Marriott Tacoma Downtown lobby*; Runners & Walkers Depart at **6:45 am**

7:45 am – REGISTRATION opens *Tacoma Convention Ctr* **COFFEE, PASTRIES, NETWORKING, EXHIBIT TABLES**

Pick up your badge if you haven't already, get free giveaway items and visit exhibitors!

8:25 am – All Seated

8:30 am **sharp!** - Annual Meeting Called to Order *Tacoma Convention Center Ballroom*

- **Call to Order; What We'll Accomplish Here, as Change is Upon Us**
 - Peter Friedmann, Executive Director, Agriculture Transportation Coalition - AgTC

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TUESDAY, MAY 19 *continued*

"Almost Final" AGENDA

- **Welcome**
 - NWSA Commissioner
 - NWSA CEO John Wolfe, Keeping the Ships Coming
- **Global Ocean Shipping Overview. Dramatic Changes. Surcharges**
 - Bill Rooney, Exec. VP Kuehne + Nagel, formerly President Hanjin
- **Ag Shippers' Current Challenges + Strategies.** AgTC members representing diverse cargoes, origins and equipment needs, share experiences and strategies: gaining export bookings, detention and demurrage charges, handling cancelations, finding trucking and rail service.
 - Angelica Hansen, Perdue Agri, Maryland
 - Irina Brown, Dunavant, Tennessee
 - Cynthia Tathwell, Columbia Grain, Oregon
 - Jamie Ballard, JBS Imports, Colorado
- **Importers Power the Supply Chain in the United States. How can Exporters Benefit?**
 - Ken O'Brien Gemini Shippers Assoc. (Top 5 U.S. Container Importer)

Register

Coffee Break

- **Perspective and Initiatives of Container Carrier**
 - Takashi Masuda, President North America, Ocean Network Express (ONE)
- **Global Demand for US Ag Products – Tariffs, Trade Wars – Who Will buy our ag, where will we send it?**
 - Paul Bingham, S&P Global

Working Lunch – The Federal Maritime Commission's: Priorities in Dealing with New Challenges; Essential Role of the FMC to Protect U.S. Exporters and Importers

- Laura DiBella, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission

Fixing the Friction Points in our Ag Export Supply Chain

- **Getting Through the Ports.**
 - Bana James, Chief Operations, TraPac
- **Can Ocean Carriers Finally Provide Data Shippers Need?**
 - Tony Winge, Digital Container Shipping Association
- **Can exporters predict Cargo Window to Avoid Detention & Demurrage?**
 - Vijay Harrell, TradeLanes
 - Leader, GNOSIS

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TUESDAY, MAY 19 *continued*

"Almost Final" AGENDA

Coffee Break

- **Restoring Supply Chain Security - Stopping Cargo Theft**
 - Leading Expert, How to protect yourself from cargo theft across transport modes
 - Peter Schneider, Exec. VP Pacific Region, IMC, AgTC Members' experienceing: Cargo Theft, Break-In, Fraud
- **Protecting the Shipper from Dramatic Rate Fluxuation**
 - Gordon Downes, NYSHEX - with April Zobel, The Andersons
- **Threatening US Exports and Imports to Restore US Shipbuilding and Maritime?**
 - Understanding Impact of Congressional and USTR Proposals on ag exporters
- **Day 1 Succinct Wrap Up: What We Learned Today**

Register

5:15 pm - Bus to evening events at Historic Foss Waterway Seaport Maritime Museum - 705 Dock St

5:30pm - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WINE RECEPTION

6:45pm – AgTC ANNUAL DINNER

Wear Your AgTC Green!

Greetings

Gene Seroka, Port of Los Angeles
Noel Hacegaba, Port of Long Beach

Revealing 2026 AgTC Ocean Carrier Performance Survey Results

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

8:30 am Day 2 General Session *Continental Breakfast in Tacoma Convention Center Ballroom*

- **2 years till a New West Coast Longshore Contract**
 - Bobby Olvera, Jr, President, International Longshore and Warehouse Union
- **Rail Merger – Will it Happen?**
 - Adam Weisskittel, VP, Burlington Northern Santa Fe – BNSF
- **Getting Equipment to Where Ag Exporters Need It.**
 - Panel of Rail, Truck, Ocean, Inland Port Operator, Ag Shipper
 - Patrick 'PJ' McGrath, Hapag-Lloyd

Coffee Break

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 *continued*

"Almost Final" AGENDA

- **Rail Merger – Will it Happen?**
 - Ryan Steinbach, A VP Intermodal, Union Pacific
- **Increasingly Essential - inland Load Points and Operating Port Approaches**
 - Micah Mallace, South Carolina Ports – Charleston
- **When Shippers Decide to Operate their own Carrier**
 - Kim Kristensin, Wonderful - Neptune Pacific Direct Line
- **Truckers – Know the Supply Chain Best**
 - Robert Loya, Harbor Trucking Association
 - Jason Hilsenbeck, Drayage.com
 - Karen Zima, RoadOne
 - Matt Bellanus, Mark-It Express
 - Nick Chiappe, California Trucking Association

Register

Working Lunch - How a Big Shipper and Carrier Negotiate a Contract

- Nicole Uchrin, Gemini Shippers Association
- Ocean Carrier

Closing Remarks - What Have We Learned, What Do We Do Now?

1:00 – 3:30 pm AgTC Members Only * Strategy and Policy - completely off the record discussion, no press, carriers, ports Ballroom

- **FMC Commissioner Dan Maffei** served under Republican and Democratic Presidents. He'll listen to what ag shippers need and what Commissioners need to know.
- **Rich Roche, Mohawk Global Shipper Advocate at the FMC:** How to fight demurrage+detention charges, effectively pursue a complaint to the FMC?

Experts lead off-the-record, free-wheeling discussion, vent, share, strategize (no speeches!).

- Congress is Amending OSRA2022 – Our priorities? Demurrage/detention, chassis availability.
- Headaches. Your export arrives but seal is broken? What else?
- We want carriers to share their routing and timing plans and changes.
- Why can the ocean carrier dictate what brand container we have to use?
- Blue Diamond: "Only truckers know what actually happens at marine terminals or rail ramps."

Evening DINNER ABOUT TOWN: Many options: waterfront views, craft breweries, local fun

THURSDAY MAY 21

8:30 am - Climb Container Crane Thanks to Ports America and their Husky Marine Terminal, located close to Marriott and Convention Center (limited availability, opportunity to sign up after you register.) AgTC Members have priority; non-members accommodated as space allows.

*** Exporters, Importers, Freight Forwarders, Truckers, & Certain Service Providers are Eligible to Join the AgTC. Questions? Email: info@agtrans.org or see AgTC Staff**