



# Agriculture Transportation Coalition

"The principal voice of agriculture exporters in transportation policy"

[www.agtrans.org](http://www.agtrans.org) | [info@agtrans.org](mailto:info@agtrans.org)

## 38<sup>th</sup> 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

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

#### MONDAY, MAY 18

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

**5:00 pm** – Registration & No-Host Early Bird Gathering *Marriott Tacoma Downtown Lobby*  
*Then pick up a list of Tacoma's restaurants, bars, from world-class Sushi next door, to others in walking distance, or Uber out to Ruston!*

#### TUESDAY, MAY 19

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**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
- **Welcome to Puget Sound**
  - Northwest Seaport Alliance CEO John Wolfe

**Register**

**TUESDAY, MAY 19** *continued*

**"Almost Final" AGENDA**

- **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, VGM, 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)

## Coffee Break Upstairs in Exhibit Hall

- **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 Operating Officer, TraPac
- **Can Ocean Carriers Finally Provide Data Shippers and Terminals Need?**
  - Tony Wringe, Digital Container Shipping Association
- **Can exporters predict Cargo Window to Avoid Detention & Demurrage?**
  - Vijay Harrell, TradeLanes
  - Jennifer Schneider, Puris
  - Gary Williams, U.S. Identity Preserved Alliance
  - Jake Hoffman, Gnosis Freight

## Coffee Break Upstairs in Exhibit Hall

- **Supply Chain Security - Cargo Theft, Insurance, Avoidance and Liability**
  - Allen Gear, Formerly Microsoft Supply Chain Security, Risk & Security Solutions, LLC
  - Ashley Mordecai, USA Cargo
  - Peter Schneider, Exec. VP Pacific Region, IMC
  - Heather Randolph, Wine & Spirits Shippers Assn.

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**TUESDAY, MAY 19** *continued*

**"Almost Final" AGENDA**

- **Detention & Demurrage – Tell us if the System is Working**
  - Rich Roche, Mohawk Global
- **Protecting the Shipper from Dramatic Rate Fluctuation**
  - Gordon Downes NYSHEX, with April Zobel, The Andersons
- **Will We Have Enough Truckers? Non-Domiciled CDL's; English Proficiency**
  - Nick Chiappe, California Trucking Association
- **When Ocean Carriers Work with AgTC Members**
  - Joe Kramek, World Shipping Council

**Register**

**Day 1 Wrap Up – What We Learned Today, What's on Tap Tonight**

**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**

*Industry Icon Unplugged!*

**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?**
  - Ryan Steinbach, A VP Intermodal, Union Pacific
- **Exporting from Where Ag is Produced**
  - Christopher Jennum, Dairy Farmers of America
  - Matt Belanus, Mark-It Express
  - Patrick 'PJ' McGrath, Hapag-Lloyd

**Coffee Break Upstairs in Exhibit Hall**

- **Rail Merger – Will it Happen?**
  - Adam Weisskittel, VP, Burlington Northern Santa Fe – BNSF

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20** *continued*

**"Almost Final" AGENDA**

- **Increasingly Essential - inland Load Points and Operating Port Approaches**
  - Byron Miller, South Carolina Ports – Charleston
- **When Shippers Decide to Operate their own Carrier**
  - Kim Kristensen, Wonderful - Neptune Pacific Direct Line
- **Drayage to and from the Seaports and Railways**
  - Robert Loya, Harbor Trucking Association
  - Jason Hilsenbeck, Drayage.com
  - Karen Zima, RoadOne

**Register**

## **Working Lunch - Two Shippers – Two Carriers How to Approach Contract Negotiation**

- Nicole Uchirin, Gemini Shippers Association
- Jennifer Sidis, Wilbur Ellis
- PJ McGrath, Hapag Lloyd
- OOCL

## **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](mailto:info@agtrans.org) or see AgTC Staff**