

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 29**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Mathis and Mia Bonta  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Choi, Flora, and Lackey)**

March 14, 2022

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 29—Relative to ports.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 29, as introduced, Mathis. The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 to alleviate and remedy the congestion of California’s ports and to ensure that the state’s importing and exporting capabilities are returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1     WHEREAS, Shipping is a backbone of the United States  
2     economy; and  
3     WHEREAS, In 2019, more than \$2,520,000,000 of goods were  
4     imported and approximately \$1,650,000,000 of goods were  
5     exported from the United States; and  
6     WHEREAS, California is a coastal state, where ports are an  
7     important and necessary part of the economy; and  
8     WHEREAS, In 2019, over \$174,000,000 of goods were exported  
9     from California’s ports; and  
10    WHEREAS, Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on  
11    the shipping industry, California’s ports are congested and  
12    overwhelmed with goods that cannot be timely received or shipped;  
13    and

1 WHEREAS, The congestion in California’s ports is triggering  
2 delays in product removal and distribution from affected ships,  
3 causing imported goods to be destroyed and perishable items to  
4 expire; and

5 WHEREAS, In conjunction with the backlog of imported goods,  
6 there is a severe bottleneck in export process for goods to be  
7 exported from California’s ports, including items that are perishable  
8 or otherwise have a limited time frame to be shipped, causing these  
9 items to rot or deteriorate; and

10 WHEREAS, The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 H.R.  
11 4996 — 117th Congress would help to alleviate California’s  
12 congested ports by allowing for the efficient export, import, and  
13 distribution of goods; and

14 WHEREAS, The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 would  
15 ensure an efficient and competitive transportation system for the  
16 common carriage of imported goods by water in the foreign  
17 commerce of the United States that, as far as possible, is in  
18 harmony with fair and equitable international shipping practices;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 would  
21 support the growth and development of United States exports  
22 through a competitive and efficient system for the common carriage  
23 of goods by water in the foreign commerce of the United States  
24 and place a greater reliance on the marketplace; now, therefore,  
25 be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
27 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature strongly encourages the  
28 Congress of the United States to enact the Ocean Shipping Reform  
29 Act of 2021 to alleviate and remedy the congestion of California’s  
30 ports and to ensure that the state’s importing and exporting  
31 capabilities are returned to prepandemic levels; and be it further

32 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
33 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
34 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
35 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
36 Representative of California in the Congress of the United States.

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