July 27, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: The Port of Long Beach’s Position on Redistricting Priorities

Dear Commissioners Ahmad, Akutagawa, Andersen, Fernández, Fornaciari, Kennedy, Le Mons, Sadhwani, Sinay, Taylor, Toledo, Turner, Vázquez and Yee:

As Executive Director of the nation’s second busiest seaport, I am writing to request the 2020 Citizen Redistricting Commission keep the Port of Long Beach together with the City of Long Beach in Federal and State legislative districts as a part of this redistricting process.

The Port of Long Beach is managed by the Harbor Department of the City of Long Beach and governed by a five-member Harbor Commission that is comprised of City of Long Beach residents who are nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Having the Port together with the City in single Congressional, Assembly and State Senate districts will enable our community to unify around important local needs and focus representation on major issues facing our city, state and nation.

With a population of nearly 500,000 people, the City of Long Beach is the second-largest city in Los Angeles County and one of the largest in the State of California. In addition to being one of the most diverse cities in the nation, Long Beach enjoys a healthy balance of local industries, a shared history and common interests. This includes partnership that have brought the Port and Long Beach community together. For example, in 2016 the Port partnered with the Long Beach Unified School District to create an Academy of Global Logistics at Cabrillo High School. This partnership set up a training program for local students that combines academic curriculum with industry-relevant training to create a strong, trained, local workforce. The Academy builds on the Long Beach College Promise by introducing high school students to career opportunities in global trade and logistics and showing them how to prepare for those careers through a wide range of training and education programs including certificates, certifications and degrees offered by Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach.
In 2017, the Port also set up a Community Grants Program that benefits non-profit and other community based organizations near the Port. Some examples of projects that have benefited from port grants include: air filter, window and door replacements at local schools and other facilities; a mobile care unit for St. Mary Medical Center dedicated to asthma treatment; asthma education and outreach; and tree plantings.

For these reasons, the Port of Long Beach is proud to join other Long Beach community leaders in requesting the Commission keep Long Beach unified within Federal and State legislative districts.

Sincerely,

Mario Cordero
Executive Director