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**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK SHIPPING ASSOCIATION, INC.
IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY WITHDRAWING FROM
THE WATERFRONT COMMISSION COMPACT**

Edison, NJ – February 10, 2022 - The New York Shipping Association, Inc. (NYSA) and its members who load and unload almost 100% of the containerized cargo in the Port of New York and New Jersey (Port of NY&NJ) as well as vehicles and other cargoes, have sought to modernize the law enforcement and hiring oversight functions over longshore operations in the Port for over a decade. These functions have been performed by the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor (Waterfront Commission) for almost 70 years pursuant to the Waterfront Commission Compact. The Port industry in New Jersey and New York competes with neighboring ports for cargo, which translates into jobs and economic growth for the entire port region (a 31-county area that reaches beyond New York City and northern New Jersey to include parts of southern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania). The current bureaucratic structure of the Waterfront Commission does not support the needs of the Port industry and region but instead hinders innovation, efficiency, and economic opportunity. Frankly, it is a structure built for gridlock and inertia as each state in this bi-state compact has one Commissioner. Unfortunately, both Commissioners must agree to make any substantive changes.

It is extremely disappointing that legislation to modernize the oversight over Port operations and the Waterfront Commission itself, passed in New Jersey many years ago gained no support in New York. Instead, the State of New York with their 10% share of port activity, made no effort to enact initiatives to modernize and enhance Waterfront Commission oversight. All the State of New York had to do was enact parallel legislation to give effect to New Jersey's legislative efforts to make the Port of NY&NJ a preferred destination for shippers of cargo.

With nearly 90% of the Port's activity in New Jersey, it makes sense for New Jersey to take control of its own destiny and subsequent economic development by moving the oversight of the Port's workforce and the companies that employ them to the New Jersey State Police (NJSP), a law enforcement entity with substantial resources and expertise. NYSA strongly supports New Jersey in asserting its sovereignty over its Port under the auspices of the NJSP and in its efforts to protect the State's and Port region's significant economic engine. The NJSP is a professional organization that will upgrade industry regulation with proven ability to enhance port oversight and perform law enforcement functions under modern and cutting edge methods.

If the Port of NY&NJ is to remain competitive and the supply chain resilient, this is a change that needs to happen.

NYSA is the multiemployer collective bargaining association whose members are the companies that are regulated by the Waterfront Commission and that employ the longshore and port security workers registered by the Waterfront Commission. NYSA's members fund the operations of the Waterfront Commission through an assessment on the wages paid to registered workers.

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