

Statement from Matt Priest, President and CEO of FDRA, on Footwear Industry Preparing for Recovery as Port Strikes End

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, **Matt Priest, President and CEO of Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)**, released the following statement following the port strike:

“With the port strikes coming to a resolution, the footwear industry is focused on mitigating the disruptions we have experienced over the last few days. While some delays may persist, reopening ports immediately will help reduce further economic stress, especially as we head into the holiday season.

“Upon learning about the likelihood of a port strike, the Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA) swiftly signed a letter urging the Biden administration to end the strike. As always, we will continue advocating for policies that remove costly burdens placed on the industry and consumers. We appreciate the work of the ports, the dockworkers and longshoremen, and the administration to end this strike quickly and continue working toward a final agreement before January 15. Our industry looks forward to running efficient operations to benefit our consumers.”

For additional background:

- On September 17, 2024, FDRA sent a letter to the administration calling for negotiations to resume; click [HERE](#) to read.
- On October 2, 2024, FDRA continued to urge swift action and sent a letter to the president’s desk. Click [HERE](#) to read.

About: FDRA is governed and directed by footwear executives and is the only trade organization focused solely on the industry. Serving the full footwear supply chain, it boosts its members’ bottom lines through innovative products, training, consulting on footwear design and development, sourcing and compliance, trade and customs, advocacy, and consumer and sales trend analysis for shoe retailers around the world. FDRA supports 500 companies and brands worldwide, representing 95% of the total U.S. footwear industry.