



Subject: Urgent Appeal to Encourage UPS to Continue Negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

July 20th, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden,

On behalf of the Premium Cigar Association (PCA), a trade organization representing over 3,000 small businesses and over 250 premium cigar manufacturers, I am writing to bring to your attention a critical matter that could have devastating consequences for our industry and the broader economy.

As you are aware, UPS and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (Teamsters) are currently in the final stages of negotiating a new labor agreement, with the deadline for the current contract set to expire on August 1, 2023.

Our reason for writing to you today is to respectfully request your support and encouragement in urging UPS and the Teamsters to continue their negotiations and reach a mutually beneficial agreement without resorting to a strike. The potential of a strike by the Teamsters poses an unprecedented threat to our industry and the entire American economy, with consequences that could resonate for years.

Should a strike occur, it will result in significant and lasting harm to the premium cigar retailers we represent. Our industry relies heavily on efficient logistics and timely deliveries, and any disruption in UPS services would be felt severely by our member businesses and customers. This is due to UPS being the only reliable private sector service that ships premium cigars.

The premium cigar industry supports over 300,000 jobs globally, and contributes to the national economy, as well as to economies around the world. Small businesses across the country depend on the reliable shipping services provided by UPS to deliver their products to customers. A strike would not only disrupt the livelihoods of workers but also impact consumer access to premium cigars.

We request that you use your esteemed office to encourage both parties involved to continue their negotiations in good faith and find a resolution that avoids a potentially catastrophic strike. We

believe that open dialogue and compromise can lead to an agreement that benefits all parties involved, protecting the interests of workers and businesses alike.

Thank you for considering our appeal. We are confident that your support in this matter will go a long way in safeguarding the wellbeing of our industry, small businesses, and the American economy as a whole.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or if there is any way we can be of assistance. We are grateful for your attention to this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Pearce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Scott Pearce
Executive Director
The Premium Cigar Association
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