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Federal Maritime
Commission No. 2268

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FORCE MAJEURE NOTICE – SITUATION INVOLVING PORT OF BALTIMORE

Due to the recent tragic accident involving the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A., all operations at the Port of Baltimore have stopped until further guidance is provided by local authorities. The passage of cargo vessels to and from the Port of Baltimore is impossible at this time and there is no estimated date when passage will be permitted again or when the Port of Baltimore will reopen.

With the Port of Baltimore closed, our steamship line service providers have informed us that they have declared *force majeure* relating to the vessels that call on the Port of Baltimore as part of their current routing. The steamship lines are re-routing ships away from the Baltimore area and are off-loading shipments destined for the Port of Baltimore at other locations. Further, the steamship lines are requiring customers to re-route cargo to alternative ports of export and/or arrange on-carriage to final destination from alternative ports of arrival, at the customer's own cost. Therefore, due to this situation caused by the accident and the resulting closure of the Port of Baltimore and related impacts to transportation infrastructure and operations, effective immediately, by issuing this notice, Expeditors is declaring *force majeure* under our applicable contracts and bills of lading for all shipments currently in, or scheduled to pass through, the Port of Baltimore.

This unforeseen event makes it impossible to transport cargo on previously established routes, schedules, and may be subject to emergency or other surcharges. In addition, this situation may impact KPI's, transit time commitments, operational requirements, or other performance metrics. Therefore, until further notice, any delays or nonperformance attributable to this situation shall not be factored into these metrics and Expeditors shall have no liability for the same. We are working diligently to move cargo as alternative vessels, equipment, routes, and schedules become available, and reserve the right to reroute cargo, modify services and/or adjust operations accordingly. We will continue to monitor developments, but we cannot say how long this situation may last. Accordingly, this declaration will remain in effect until further notice.

More specific information will be communicated to customers with impacted shipments from your local Expeditors' contact.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Expeditors' office.

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