

February 25, 2011

Chairman Mary Landrieu
Senate Appropriations/Homeland Security Subcommittee
SD-135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via e-mail: drenan_dudley@appro.senate.gov

Ranking Member Dan Coats
Senate Appropriations/Homeland Security Subcommittee
SH-125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via e-mail: rebecca_davies@appro.senate.gov

Dear Chairman Landrieu and Ranking Member Coats:

I am writing to express the American Association of Port Authorities' deep concerns over the proposed funding cut for the Department of Homeland Security's Port Security Grant program that was included in the Continuing Resolution (CR) bill that recently passed the House of Representatives. H.R. 1 proposes to reduce the funding for this program by two-thirds; bringing the funding level down from \$300 million to \$100 million. The authorized level for the program, \$400 million, has been appropriated in earlier budgets.

The Port Security Grant program provides needed federal help to harden security at U.S. ports. Most port areas have developed five-year plans to enhance security by ranking projects based on risk. By decreasing this funding, these five-year plans cannot be carried out, leaving critical security enhancements undone. Additionally, these funds are used to help maintain current levels of security by providing funds for maintenance and replacement of broken systems in order to sustain a certain capability. Reducing these funds by two-thirds will surely have a negative impact on our current ability to protect America's ports, as well as plans for future improvements.

As you consider the Continuing Resolution, we urge you to give serious consideration to the impact such a drastic cut will have on the nation and ask that you reject the House level of funding for this program. Instead, AAPA calls for you to bring the Port Security Grant program on par with other Homeland Security programs and provide funding for at least \$300 million in the final bill.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO