

November 22, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

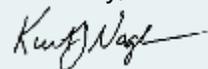
As the full Senate begins consideration of the new *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* this week, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), the unified and collective voice of the seaport industry in the Americas and the Caribbean, is writing to strongly oppose any effort to impose a tax on the cruise industry as included in the Senate bill. The cruise line industry is a significant maritime industry responsible for driving economic growth and creating jobs at U.S. port facilities, making it an important part of the American economy. This letter is on behalf of our U.S. members.

Cruise lines are mobile assets that can easily be moved from uncompetitive markets to more favorable jurisdictions. The global cruise industry contributed nearly \$50 billion to the U.S. economy last year, supporting more than 370,000 U.S. jobs which paid over \$20 billion in wages and benefits. In 2016, a record 24.2 million passengers cruised globally, of which 11.52 million were from the United States. Demand for cruising has increased 62 percent in the past 10 years. It is a rapidly growing industry with 26 million passengers expected to cruise in 2017. Nationally, the cruise industry directly spends \$22 billion annually in the U.S. for products and services from every state, and this proposed tax places these economic benefits at great risk.

We urge you to remove the Senate tax bill provision to impose a new tax on the cruise industry. This provision would have an enormous adverse impact on the economic viability of our port members and their communities, as well as hinder rather than promote American economic growth, jobs, and our international competitiveness.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support. We appreciate your recognition of the critical importance of ports and their vital role in the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,



Kurt Nagle
President & CEO

cc: Senator Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance