

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Carper,

Thank you for your continued leadership on issues impacting ports as well as freight and supply chain policy and funding issues. Specifically, AAPA strongly supports your legislative initiative that repeals the multimodal cap on the discretionary grant program created in the FAST Act, under the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects; otherwise known as INFRA Grants. Sustainable multimodal funding is a top AAPA priority.

AAPA greatly appreciates your work on the FAST Act in creating the first funded freight program, which included ports as eligible recipients. Ports are now firmly recognized as part of the surface transportation, logistics and distribution network. To build off the work in the FAST Act, AAPA believes that freight program funding should be 100 percent multimodal. Equally important, the FAST Act required states to complete state freight plans to continue to receive their freight formula funding. The results have been telling. To date, 90 percent of the states have submitted multimodal state freight plans to the U.S. Department of Transportation. This is important because it signals that states recognize the value of multimodal projects, but also that the supply chain is operational, and ports are at the center of this activity.

Your legislation is timely and needed. Of the \$11 billion of freight funding provided in the FAST Act, only \$1.13 billion is multimodal eligible. Furthermore, only \$200 million in multimodal eligibility remains available for INFRA grants for the remainder of the FAST Act.

Ports have a clear need for multimodal funding. Last spring, AAPA released the *State of Freight III – Rail Access and Port Multimodal Funding Needs*, which outlines upwards of \$20 billion in multimodal needs over the next decade. Your legislation will help ports as they build out multimodal projects that connect our supply chain with manufacturers, retailers and farmers across the country.

We look forward to working with you in the near term in enacting your legislation to lift the multimodal cap for INFRA grants. We look forward to working with you next year as Congress begins to discuss the reauthorization of the FAST Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt J. Nagle", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman, Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee
The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member, House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee