

April 24, 2017

The Honorable Mark Warner  
The United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4605

Dear Senator Warner:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is the unified and collective voice of the seaport industry, and today we write in support of the Building and Renewing Infrastructure for Development and Growth in Employment (BRIDGE) Act in this 115th Congress. Bills designed to increase investments in our country's infrastructure, such as the BRIDGE Act, are vital to continued American strength. We must take steps now to invest in our country's infrastructure, sustaining economic growth and creating American jobs.

Last year, America's public ports created jobs for more than 23 million U.S. residents, contributed \$321 billion in tax revenue and accounted for more than a quarter of the total U.S. economic activity, according to Martin Associates economic impact study. Together with their private-sector partners, ports will invest over \$30 billion annually in marine terminal infrastructure for the next five years. For America to remain globally competitive, however, we need the federal government not only to invest directly in infrastructure projects but also to create incentives for private and local investments as well. Investments now will pay dividends in the long run by reversing the widening gap in freight movement infrastructure spending between our country and the spending levels of our competitors.

To sustain U.S. exports and the jobs they generate, our freight infrastructure must keep pace with demand. This is of particular importance to the 1,200 miles of deteriorating roads, rails, bridges and tunnels that link our ports with the rest of the 57,000-mile highway grid. In the American Association of Port Authorities' report, [\*The State of Freight\*](#), U.S. ports have identified \$28.9 billion in freight infrastructure investments to be made in the next ten years to bring our freight network into the 21st century. Freight investments are disadvantaged in the current transportation planning and funding process. America can and must do better. It is for this reason that legislation such as the BRIDGE Act is so important.

AAPA applauds your commitment to sustaining and enhancing America's transportation infrastructure. We are eager to continue working with you, ensuring sustainable economic and job growth, and enhancing America's international competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt J. Nagle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kurt J. Nagle  
President and CEO