

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
SD-184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
c/o Clare Doherty

The Honorable Mario Díaz-Balart
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o Carl Barrick

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
SH-125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
c/o Dabney Hegg

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o Joe Carlile

RE: AAPA FY 2019 THUD Appropriations Conference Priorities

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Chairman Díaz-Balart, Ranking Member Reed and Ranking Member Price:

On behalf of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), we want to thank you for your leadership on multimodal port infrastructure funding and for your commitment to providing resources toward the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Program, the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program and the Marine Highway Program, all of which are top AAPA priorities.

International trade through seaports accounts for over a quarter of the U.S. GDP. At the center of trade and transportation are America's seaports, which handle approximately \$6 billion worth of import and export goods daily, generate over 23 million jobs, and provide more than \$320 billion annually in federal, state and local tax revenues. Seaports also are projected to handle nearly 12 million cruise passengers from around the country and around the world.

As the House and Senate move toward conferencing the FY 20 19 THUD appropriations bill, AAPA has several recommendations.

National Infrastructure Investment Program

AAPA members have long supported a "Multimodal BUILD/TIGER-style" program and have advocated that a minimum of 25 percent of the funding be dedicated to port-related infrastructure needs. AAPA strongly supports the 33 percent dedicated funding for port infrastructure projects in the House bill.

As one of the only multimodal funding programs, AAPA has consistently advocated for increased BUILD/TIGER funding levels. This 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. AAPA strongly supports the Senate funding level of \$1 billion for the FY 2019 BUILD program. We would add that if there is an opportunity

during conference deliberations to increase the overall number to the FY 2018 level of \$1.5 billion, AAPA strongly supports allocating additional resources to this important program.

The House and the Senate bills include a 10 percent maximum per state and certain set asides for metropolitan and rural areas. These put states with ports at a distinct disadvantage. Ports are national infrastructure resources that support all states, metropolitan areas and rural supply chains. AAPA urges you to provide language in the final bill that recognizes this role and provides some relief to port states.

Marine Highway Program

AAPA also strongly supports the \$7 million for the Marine Highway Program in the Senate bill. The Marine Highway Program is an asset that is enabling ports and communities to fully realize their potential in managing increasing freight volumes, while reducing congestion in communities. AAPA ports throughout the country with marine highway designations have reported that this program provides an important option in utilizing waterways and incorporating this tool into their freight network.

CRISI Program

The CRISI program is of growing importance to the port industry because of the port rail access eligibilities of the program and the potential of stronger rail and port project partnerships. AAPA supports the House funding level of \$300 million for CRISI grants. AAPA's recently released [The State of Freight III](#) report identified that in the coming decade one-third of ports have pressing rail project needs that cost more than \$50 million, 43 percent said better rail access would add more than 25 percent throughput capacity through their ports and 90 percent said better rail access would help meet these growing demands and secure new cargo.

Finally, we thank the Senate and House for your leadership on multimodal infrastructure funding issues and look forward to working with you on maintaining the 33 percent funding level so that ports and industry partners can address these important infrastructure and supply chain issues.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, House of Representatives
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader