The nation’s seaports serve a vital role in U.S. job creation, economic prosperity, international competitiveness and Americans’ standard of living – responsible for over 23 million U.S. jobs, $321 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue and $4.6 trillion in economic activity (26% of the nation’s economy). Seaports are economic engines and vital freight gateways to the global marketplace for American farmers, manufacturers and consumers, and serve as critical infrastructure for the U.S. military.

To help American companies compete in the world market, the administration and Congress must make investments today to build America’s 21st century seaport infrastructure, and through tax reform must also address inequities that harm the U.S. seaport system.

As the unified voice of American seaports, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is working to make seaports a key priority for policymakers considering plans for investment in U.S. infrastructure.

KEY ACTIONS FOR 2017 AND BEYOND:

Eliminate Bottlenecks and Expand Capacity:
To improve landside connections to seaports and enhance U.S. global competitiveness, multimodal freight investments must be a key priority. The federal government should increase investments in Department of Transportation programs that target seaport infrastructure, including FAST Act freight programs, and the StrongPorts and Marine Highway Programs.

Modernize and Fully Maintain Federal Navigation Channels:
The Corps of Engineers Coastal Navigation program manages the maintenance and modernization of federal navigation channels – the nation’s water highways to the world market – and should be fully funded. Also underfunded are NOAA’s navigation charts and real-time data that ensure safe vessel passage.

Secure America’s Ports and Borders:
Safe, secure and efficient movement of freight through seaports is fundamental to border protection. Adequate staffing and resources for Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and the U.S. Coast Guard are critical, along with making port authority projects a high priority for FEMA’s Port Security grants.

Protect the Environment:
Federal investments help ports reduce the environmental impact of freight transportation. These investments can help make ports resilient to natural disasters and other potential hazards to avoid a long-term disruption of the nation’s freight transportation system.
23 million
American jobs supported by seaports each year.

$4.6 trillion
Value of economic activity related to seaports.

26%
Percentage of the U.S. economy related to seaports.

1.4 billion
Metric tons of overseas cargo handled by seaports in 2015.

$1.75 trillion
Value of cargo moved through seaports in 2015.

$6 billion
Value of goods handled by seaports each day.

$4 trillion
Potential GDP loss by 2025 for failure to invest in U.S. infrastructure.

$575 billion
Cost to American businesses and households by 2025.

$3,400
Cost per household by 2025.

$14 billion
Added cost of traded products by 2040 due to shallow harbors.

$9.3 billion
Amount of trade loss from the use of undersized vessels in shallow harbors and narrow channels by 2020.