

## **American Association of Port Authorities – Delivering Prosperity**

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), the alliance of leading seaports in the Western Hemisphere, protects and advances the common interests of its diverse members that contribute to our global transportation system each and every day.

Founded in 1912, AAPA represents more than 150 port authorities throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean. The association is headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, and led by Kurt J. Nagle, president and CEO, and Armand J. "Pete" Reixach, chairman of the board and executive director of Port Freeport, in Freeport, Texas.

### **Delivering Prosperity**

For centuries, seaports have served as a vital economic lifeline by bringing goods and services to people around the world. Seaports remain a critical link for access to the global marketplace. Each year, seaports throughout the Western Hemisphere generate nearly \$9 trillion of economic activity, support the employment of tens of millions of people and import and export more than 4.5 billion tons of cargo including food, clothing, medicine, fuel and building materials, as well as consumer electronics and toys.

The volume of cargo shipped by water is expected to dramatically increase by 2020 and, due to the growing global population and disposable income, the number of passengers traveling through our seaports will increase as well. In order to meet these demands, AAPA and its members are committed to keeping seaports navigable, secure and sustainable.

### **Key Issues**

AAPA has outlined three key issues impacting seaports today:

- Economic Impact – modern, navigable seaports with uncongested intermodal freight access are vital to international trade and economic prosperity.
- Security – safe and secure seaport facilities are fundamental to both protecting our borders and moving goods around the world.
- Environment – seaports working to identify solutions that enhance our coastal resources and reduce environmental impact.

### **Goals**

AAPA has set four goals to advance its mission of protecting and advancing the common interests of its seaport members:

- Representation and Advocacy – advocating governmental policies that strengthen and expand opportunities for member seaports.
- Professional Development and Education – advance professionalism in all facets of seaport management.
- Relationship-Building – promote information sharing and relationship-building opportunities for all members.
- Public Awareness – achieve greater understanding of the essential role and economic value of ports.