March 31, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Carter and Ranking Members Lowey and Roybal-Allard:

As you begin work on the FY 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, we urge you to maintain funding at $100 million for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP). As you know, funds made available by the PSGP are used to protect critical port infrastructure from criminal and terrorist attacks—both physical and cyber. While the needs of our ports have grown, funding for the PSGP has not kept pace. In order to ensure our ports receive the critical funding they need, it is vital that this program remains funded at $100 million.

Ports in many ways serve as the linchpin to our economy. Each of our 50 states, whether it be California or Oklahoma, depends on at least 15 ports to import and export its goods. Our ports are responsible for transporting 99 percent of the country’s overseas cargo, totaling $3.8 billion worth of goods each day. Additionally, each year American seaports generate $4.6 trillion and employ 23 million people all over the country. Given the importance of ports to our national economy, it is vital that they remain secure.

However, the security of our seaports has been largely ignored. Ports continue to face emerging cyber, nuclear, radiological, and chemical threats that we believe call for a larger spotlight on our port security efforts. It is imperative that we make sure that our ports have the resources they need to successfully prevent, counter, and recover from a potential terrorist attack. According to the Brookings Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence, it would only take a small attack on our ports to grind U.S. commerce to a halt within days.

In working directly with ports throughout the nation, we are extremely conscious of the current economic pressure they face, their substantial contributions to the national economy, and the broad level of vulnerability they are up against. We appreciate the support that the committee has given to this program in previous years. Due to the program’s importance to the vital interests of our nation and our ports, we respectfully urge you to fund the Port Security Grant Program at $100 million in the FY 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.
Thank you for your consideration of this important request to continue protecting our critical port infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

David Rouzer
Member of Congress
Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

Kathy Cast  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

Pete Olson  
Member of Congress
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro 
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress