

November 7, 2013

The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
The United States Senate  
475 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4605

Dear Senator Warner:

We write in support of your introduction of the BRIDGE Act in this 113th Congress. Bills designed to increase investments in our country's infrastructure, such as the *Building and Renewing Infrastructure for Development and Growth in Employment* (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.

America's public ports – which create jobs for more than 13 million U.S. residents and handle 99 percent of our nation's overseas trade – together with their private-sector partners are investing over \$9 billion annually in marine terminal infrastructure. For America to remain globally competitive, however, we need the federal government not only to contribute directly to 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.

While seaports were given a “C” grade by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in their recent Report Card for America's Infrastructure, the country as a whole was given a “D+”. 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,



Kurt J. Nagle  
President and CEO

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