

July 17, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the House Committee on Appropriations marks up its FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) is writing to express its disappointment that the bill does not include funding for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. AAPA has been a strong supporter of TIGER since its inception because of its utility for ports. TIGER is a key multimodal funding source for freight projects that are vital to rebuilding our national infrastructure while addressing multimodal freight transportation funding challenges and needs.

From an investment perspective, the TIGER grant program has been extremely valuable in helping define our nation's freight network. The successes of TIGER grants for freight-related projects highlight the important role ports and intermodal projects play in improving our national freight system and leveraging private sector funding. The annual TIGER process, and its coordinated and collaborative planning requirements in the submission of eligible freight-related projects, has served as a catalyst in bringing freight stakeholders to the table—along with additional funding.

While the FAST Act authorized and provides \$11 billion in freight funding, only \$1.13 billion is multimodal eligible. TIGER continues to be a vital tool for ports and freight stakeholders alike for building complex multimodal freight projects that address the challenges of the 21st century freight network.

AAPA believes sustained funding related to a national freight strategy and the strengthening of freight competitive grant programs is at the heart of enhancing our competitiveness on the international stage and strengthening of our nation's domestic economy and rate of job growth.

Sincerely,



President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Full Committee
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Full Committee
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable David Price, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee