

January 29, 2018

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Ranking Member McCaskill,

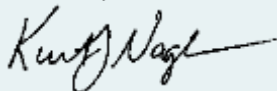
Thank you for your leadership in addressing our nation's CBP workforce crisis with the introduction of the *Border and Port Security Act* (S. 2314). CBP staffing at our nation's seaports is a top priority for the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA).

Nowhere is the need for a sustainable and robust CBP workforce more apparent than at our nation's seaports. Each year, roughly 1.2 billion metric tons of foreign trade cargo, including more than 11 million cargo containers arrive at our seaports, and over 11 million international passengers begin their cruises via U.S. seaports. As our ports' freight and passenger volumes steadily increase, CBP struggles to meet mandated staffing levels, putting greater stress on our national supply chain and freight network. To highlight this point, in FY 2015, CBP was funded to hire 2,000 additional staff, fewer than 20 agents were assigned to seaports. This inequity of CBP resources cannot continue. Our nation's ports are in partnership with CBP in securing our supply chain and providing vital support in moving freight safely through our ports and out on to the national freight network. We applaud your legislation, as it seeks to fund and staff CBP at needed levels, while envisioning the evolving needs of CBP to facilitate rising freight and passenger services.

The role CBP plays at our seaports is unique and cannot be overstated. We appreciate that your legislation requires, at a minimum, hiring 500 new CBP officers annually, above attrition, as well as requiring a GAO report that seeks solutions to comprehensively reform the CBP hiring process. Additionally, we strongly support the language that requires CBP to consider volume from seasonal surges, other projected changes in commercial and passenger volumes, the most current commercial forecasts, and other relevant information into its Workload Staffing Model.

This bill is a positive step to expand CBP staffing to the needed levels. AAPA looks forward to working with you and your colleagues on this urgent issue, as you move this legislation forward in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader