

June 26, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

Responsible for over a quarter of the United States GDP and nearly 31 million American jobs, a well-maintained port system is vital to the manufacturers, exporters and farmers who count on U.S. seaports to move their products to market. The current system to maintain our nation's ports, however, is broken. A comprehensive solution is needed and must provide both full use of the annual Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) revenues as well as address tax fairness.

Last year, after years of debate, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) developed a comprehensive proposal to fix the HMT. The agreement calls for full spending of prior year Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues according to a framework that ports agreed would be fair and equitable. It makes maintenance the highest priority, provides protections to address small port and regional port needs, provides increasing equity to large HMT donors and acknowledges Congress's priority to provide support to energy transfer ports.

We urge you to enact a comprehensive solution to fix the HMT for good. A long-term funding solution for port maintenance is good for ports and good for the nation. Together, let's keep America moving.

Alabama State Port Authority
Albany Port District Commission
American Association of Port Authorities
American Great Lakes Ports Association
American Petroleum Institute (API)
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Waterways Operators
Association of Ship Brokers & Agents (USA) Inc.
Calhoun Port Authority

California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA)
Cedar Bayou Navigation District
Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association,
Inc.
Connecticut Port Authority
Delaware River Stevedores, Inc.
Dow
Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Gahagan & Bryant Associates, Inc.

General Steamship Corporation, LTD
Georgia Ports Authority
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater Houston Port Bureau
Hueber Launch Service
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District
Illinois International Port District
International Liquid Terminals Association
International Longshore and Warehouse Union
International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO
Jacksonville Marine Transportation Exchange
Marine Exchange of Puget Sound
Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware
Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
Maryland Port Administration
Massachusetts Port Authority
Mattioni Ltd
Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport
Moran Shipping Agencies, Inc.
National Retail Federation
New Bedford Port Authority
New Haven Port Authority
New York City Economic Development Corporation
Norton Lilly International
Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Panama City Port Authority
Penn Terminals, LLC
Philaport Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware
Plaquemines Port
Port Corpus Christi
Port Everglades
Port Fourchon
Port Houston
Port Manatee
Port Mansfield
PortMiami
Port of Alaska
Port of Beaumont Navigation District of Jefferson County, Texas
Port of Brownsville
Port of Cleveland
Port of Everett
Port of Galveston
Port of Grays Harbor
Port of Greater Baton Rouge
Port of Harlingen
Port of Juneau
Port of Kalama
Port of Long Beach
Port of Longview
Port of Los Angeles
Port of Milwaukee
Port of New Orleans
Port of Pascagoula, Mississippi
Port of Pensacola
Port of Port Arthur
Port of San Diego
Port of San Francisco
Port of South Louisiana
Port of Stockton
Port of Vancouver USA
Port of Wilmington, Delaware Diamond State Port Corporation
Ports of Indiana
Reeves McEwing LLP
San Benito Navigation District - Port Isabel
South Jersey Port Corporation
SSA Terminals, Inc.
St. Bernard Port
Terminal Shipping Company
Texas Ports Association
The Boston Shipping Association
The Northwest Seaport Alliance
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
The Port of Hueneme
The Port of Virginia
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
United States Great Lakes Shipping Association
Virginia Maritime Association
Washington Council on International Trade (WCIT)
Washington Maritime Federation
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington Trucking Associations
West Gulf Maritime Association
Wilmington Tug, Inc.